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Talyzin sacked

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Soviet state planning chief Nikolai Talyzin has been removed and transferred to another post, the official Tass news agency reported yesterday.

Ferry strike

LONDON, (AP): Seamen striking against the sealink ferry company at Dover voted to return to work yesterday but thousands of others continued their walkout against other ferry operators for a fifth day.

Pant in Moscow

MOSCOW, (UPI): Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant arrived to Moscow yesterday for an official visit, the Tass news agency reported.

Jet project

ABU DHABI, (Reuters): Egypt's defence industry chief suggested to reporters published yesterday that Arab states cooperate with Cairo in building a warplane. "We have the industrial and technical base that would enable Arabs to produce a warplane," Lieutenant-General Ibrahim Orahi told Al Wahda newspaper in Abu Dhabi.

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کارپک خیارات ہے</

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

Israeli agents blamed for car bomb explosion

Amal commander killed

BEIRUT, Feb 6, (AP): A booby-trapped car exploded in a south Beirut district today, killing a local militia commander, police said.

The victim was identified as Abbas Awadah, known as Abu Rahib, 33, a security commander of Justice Minister Nahib Berri's Amal militia in suburban Harat Hreik, police said.

There was no responsibility claim for the killing. A terse Amal communiqué blamed it on "agents of Israel seeking to sow dissension within nationalist ranks."

The explosion occurred this morning, when Awadah turned on the ignition of his car to go to work. Three pedestrians suffered slight shrapnel injuries, police added.

Damage

"The wounded were a 22-year-old fellow and two kids, one of whom I carried to the nearest pharmacy. He was crying and vomiting," said Hasan, 22, who witnessed the explosion.

The windows of several apartment buildings overlooking the scene were shattered. Doors were ripped off by the explosion.

Army explosives expert warrant officer Mahmoud Idris said the charge was made up of five kilograms of TNT rigged in the motor Awadah's red Mercedes-Benz.

The blast killed Awadah instantly. The car was reduced to a smoldering pile of twisted metal.

The last scene is about 30 meters away from the residence of Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah extremist faction.

But police said the influential cleric was not a target.

Defused

Meanwhile, an Army explosives expert safely defused a powerful car bomb near an Air France office in East Beirut early today.

Police said Army warrant officer Youssef Bitar, who defused the bomb, estimated its weight at 40 kilograms.

The charge was rigged in a blue Peugeot automobile parked in front of a sales office for Air France, the French national carrier, in east Beirut's suburban district of Jal El-Deek.

There was no one at the office

when the bomb was discovered and dismantled, police said.

They said an investigation was under way to determine whether the bomb was related to a chain of attacks against Frenchmen in the Eastern sector of the Lebanese capital.

The last previous such attack came on Tuesday when gunmen shot and killed Frenchman Jacques Meurant with silenced automatic pistols as he drove his car in east Beirut's Ashrafieh district.

No group claimed responsibility for the assassination, which occurred two blocks from Lebanon's general security headquarters.

Agent

Police said Meurant carried a Lebanese residence permit issued in October that listed his occupation as salesman. But the French news agency Agence France-Presse quoted well informed sources in Paris as saying Meurant worked for the French secret service.

Meurant was the fifth Frenchman killed in Christian-controlled areas in 16 months.

French engineer Richard Gimpel, 46, was shot and seriously wounded Nov 11 as he drove his car on the highway linking Beirut and the port of Jounieh.

Gimpel died in hospital 13 days later.

Two gunmen in a speeding car ranked three French Embassy guards with automatic gunfire as they shopped in East Beirut's Dona district Oct 29. Lieut. Christian Mondon and warrant officer Andre Cruz were killed while Pvt. Miguel Collignon was seriously wounded.

Military attaché Col. Christian Gouttiere, 60, was shot and killed near the Embassy's compound in east Beirut's Hazmieh district Sept 18, 1986.

No group has claimed responsibility for the killings.

The Armenian secret Army for the liberation of Armenia yesterday disclaimed any involvement in the attacks on Frenchmen in east Beirut.

"We had nothing to do with any of the Frenchmen's killings in east Beirut," said an Asain statement distributed by hand to Western news agency offices in West Beirut.



A Filipino family stays beside the coffin of a 10-month-old daughter trying to raise money to bury the child who died of measles. (Reuter wirephoto)

China seeks closer ties with Iran

BEIJING, Feb 6, (Reuter): A senior Chinese leader today told a visiting Iranian delegation Beijing hoped to "strengthen its cooperation with Iran in all fields," the official New China News Agency reported.

Chinese Vice-President Ulanhu said at a formal meeting with the group from Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly that "a long-term steady and friendly relationship will be beneficial to the people of our two countries."

The agency gave no further details of meetings with the delegation, which arrived on Thursday for a one-week "good-will" visit led by the assembly's deputy speaker Hojatoleslam Mohammad Yazdi.

The US has protested against China's alleged supplies of Silkworm missiles to Iran for use in the Gulf war, and slowed the expansion of high-technology trade to Beijing in retaliation.

Western officials have also alleged that China supplied large quantities of arms to Iraq in the early stages of the war.

On Thursday, the agency quoted National People's Congress Chairman Peng Zhen, as telling the delegation that Iran and Iraq should negotiate an end to the war, but did not mention a UN ceasefire resolution passed last July.

In Manila, military leaders said they were releasing five people arrested earlier this week on suspicion of being top members of the outlawed Communist

Filipino rebels use women as shields

MANILA, Feb 6, (Reuter): A band of 150 communist rebels burned down a town hall then used women and children to shield them from pursuing soldiers and police in a northern Philippine province, the state-run news agency said today.

A military spokesman said the guerrillas also took hostage 10 women who were wives of local lawmakers.

Troops backed by helicopter gunships were sent after the rebels, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported.

A spokesman said more than 30 soldiers were on a routine patrol on Friday when their vehicles hit land mines in the town of Tandag, in Surigao del Sur province.

The rebels then opened fire on the soldiers, who returned fire until reinforcing troops arrived.

The spokesman said five helicopter gunships were sent to the area to assist ground troops and to fly the wounded soldiers to the city.

In Manila, Army spokesman Colonel Oscar Florendo said five rebel suspects detained with others in a series of raids on rebel hideouts were being released despite military reports that they were active in the insurgency.

He said the five had been linked to the Communist Party in the central Visayas islands but would be freed for lack of evidence.

Kidnapping is not political: officials

Unrwa men may be freed soon

BEIRUT, Feb 6, (AP): United Nations officials said today, they expected two kidnapped Scandinavians working for the UN Relief and Works Agency to be released soon.

"Their abduction is not political. It seems to be related to a recent dismissal of six local employees," said one Arab Unrwa official.

Masked gunmen in two cars rammed a marked UN vehicle at a highway bridge outside south Lebanon's port city of Sidon yesterday and grabbed a Swede and a Norwegian serving as Unrwa area operations supervisors.

The agency's chief spokesman Niall Kiely identified the victims as Jan Stening, 44, of Sweden, and William Jorgenson, 58, of Norway.

Unrwa's top manager in Beirut has called the abduction a "tremendous mistake" and warned that if the two were not freed soon all staff foreigners in Lebanon are optimistic," he said.

Franco's widow dies at 87

MADRID, Feb 6, (UPI): Carmen Polo Martinez, widow of the late dictator Francisco Franco, died today, family members said. She was 87.

The couple's only child, Carmen Franco, was at her mother's bedside when she died.

Polo, suffering from acute arthritis, had been in frail health for the past several years and rarely went outside, two months after Franco's death on Nov 20, Pardo Palace, where she and the dictator lived during his 37-year rule, and increasingly shunned the public light.

During Franco's dictatorship, the Spanish press noted on "Dona Carmen," showing her at the Generalissimo's side, towering several inches above her stern-faced husband and smiling radiantly.

But she failed to gain wide popularity and many Spaniards viewed her as a haughty woman. Her reported love of jewelry earned her the nicknames "Dona Pearls" and "Dona Necklaces."

King Juan Carlos, Franco's chosen successor to carry on the old regime, bestowed posttitle of Dame of Meiras and a special pension from the state after the dictator's death.

agency would be pulled out of Lebanon.

The Arab Unrwa official said Stening conducted a "hush-hush" investigation that revealed massive thefts of fuel and medical supplies from Unrwa's pharmacies in Tyre and Sidon two months ago.

A Palestinian source said the Fatah Revolutionary Council, a radical Palestinian commando faction accused of kidnapping two UN relief workers, but the group denied the charges today.

A Palestinian source said the relief workers were beaten and taken to the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain El Helweh, outside the southern port city of Sidon, after they were abducted yesterday while driving south of Beirut.

He said one of the two hostages was carrying personal belongings and was apparently planning to leave Lebanon after receiving threats from the radical group led by Abu Nidal.

But the group, in a statement distributed today, denied the report.

Sikhs slaughter family of eight

AMRITSAR, Feb 6, (Reuter): Sikh gunmen shot dead eight members of a family near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and six other people were killed in various incidents in Punjab, police said today.

Police in Amritsar said gunmen, believed to be Sikhs, demanding an independent homeland, raided a house 20 km from the city last night and shot down Kundan Singh and his family.

Singh was suspected of being a police informer, the police said.

Six other people, including two policemen, were killed in other incidents involving Sikh extremists who have stepped up their armed campaign to demand an independent homeland to be called Khalistan, or the "land of the pure."

Canadian police would not confirm the report.

The two explosions, coming a year after Indian troops attacked and killed scores of Sikhs at their Golden Temple in Amritsar, raised speculation they had been set off by Sikh activists.

Official added.

Unrwa's foreign officials declined to comment on the Arab's version, but also said they were hopeful that the two would be released soon.

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India sends more troops to crush Tigers

COLOMBO, Feb 6, (Reuter): India is to boost its troop strength in Sri Lanka to about 70,000 in an attempt to crush stubborn resistance by Tamil rebels, Sri Lankan government officials said today.

The officials said 15,000 additional troops are due to arrive.

Two Indian Army brigades are expected before Feb 10 and a third by end of the month, they said. That would increase the number of brigades in the island to 15.

The reinforcements would be deployed in the eastern districts of Trincomalee and in the Vanni jungles of the north comprising Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu districts.

"The influx of more troops is to finish the job against the terrorists as soon as possible," a Defence Ministry official said.

Indian military officials here said transport planes arrived at Batticaloa in the east yesterday, some of them capable of carrying 400 to 500 soldiers.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said: "We have moved additional troops into Batticaloa but I am not going to go into operational details about whether there were eight or 15 plane loads."

Sri Lankan officials said Indian soldiers in Batticaloa have been pursuing rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who have switched their campaign for a separatist state from the northern provinces to the east.

An Indian peacekeeping force was sent to the island's northern and eastern provinces in July when both countries signed a pact to end four years of Tamil separatist war in Sri Lanka.

Military officials said the Tigers had regrouped in Batticaloa after their northern stronghold of Jaffna was wrested from them by Indian soldiers in a major offensive last October.

There are now five Indian brigades in the Jaffna peninsula.

Congress (I) forms cabinet in Meghalaya

NEW DELHI, Feb 6, (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party today forged an alliance with smaller parties and independents, allowing it to govern northeastern Meghalaya after this week's inconclusive state polls, reports said.

The Press Trust of India said 11 members of the Congress (I) Party were sworn in as the new ministry late today at the government's mansion in Shillong, east of New Delhi.

The domestic news agency said Purno A. Sangma, formerly the central government's deputy labour minister, has been appointed chief minister to the jungle-covered state of some 1.3 million mostly Christian tribespeople.

Tuesday's polls left a power vacuum as the ruling Congress (I) Party won 22 seats, losing control of the 60-member legislature, but still having the largest power block.

A regional party, the Hill People's Union, bagged 19 seats, while independents and smaller parties took a total of 18. Counting was suspended in one district because of a dispute with the government in neighbouring Assam.

The Press Trust said the Congress (I) Party enlisted the support of some independents and smaller parties, giving it the absolute majority it needed to be eligible to rule.

2 hurt as Israeli troops open fire

(Continued from Page 1)

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

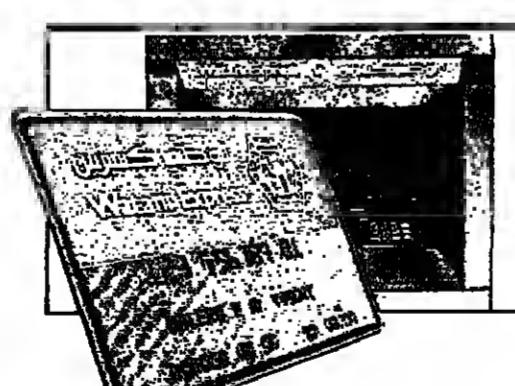
President Kenan Evren, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and other officials took part in talks with Mubarak, who later left for home at the end of a tour which also took him to Western Europe and the United States.

PLO Chief Yasser Arafat has asked the United Nations to ensure that a group of Palestinian deportees is not prevented from returning by sea to Israel.

He made the appeal in a message to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar, UN Security Council president Vernon Walters and the head of the London-based human rights group Amnesty International.

"We have no doubt about your support of these people's right to realize their wish to return to their motherland. We ask you to exercise your effective influence to ensure their secure arrival in their motherland," Arafat said.

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Secondary school students will be given lessons on immunity from next year

AIDS conference opens tomorrow

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT'S second International AIDS conference gets underway tomorrow with international experts expected to pass on the latest information about the killer disease to doctors from the WHO (World Health Organization) Eastern Mediterranean region.

Testing

The conference will cover medical as well as social and economic aspects of the disease, said Dr. Rashid Al Owaisi, the acting director of public health. From the medical point of view discussions will centre on epidemiology, clinical treatment and immunology. The three-day conference will be attended by Dr. Jonathen Mann, director of the WHO's AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) programme. A public question and answer session in Arabic will be held on Wednesday, following the closing session, and the participants will include doctors, social workers and a lawyer.

Kuwait has one of WHO's

three regional reference laboratories for AIDS testing and has aspired to play a leading role in controlling the spread of the disease in the region. Having set up the required testing facilities the country has turned to tackling the social and legal aspects of the disease. All along, emphasis has been on information and education for the public as an effective means of preventing the disease.

From next year Kuwait's secondary school students will learn about AIDS at school. Information about the disease will be included in the curriculums for the third and fourth grade arts and science students in lessons on immunity.

The conference comes in the wake of a larger event, the AIDS summit of health ministers held in London in late January. The summit was the first attempt to unite the world against AIDS and was a resounding success, said Dr. Al Owaisi, who was a member of Kuwait's delegation.

One hundred and forty-eight participating countries agreed to

take urgent action to control the spread of AIDS and demanded that national programmes respect human rights and human dignity, he said.

Information and education for the people are the most important components of national AIDS programmes, because HIV (the AIDS virus) transmission can be prevented through informed and responsible behaviour, the final declaration of the summit said.

Approach

Kuwait's proposal that national programmes should adopt a multi-sectorial approach was approved at the summit. This means that apart from health workers, police, teachers, social workers, lawyers and the media should play an active role in dealing with problems related to the disease.

To make this approach effective, Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the Planning Minister and the former Minister of Health proposed that high level committees should be formed in

each country with powers to put into practice the required measures.

Al Owaisi said that the summit conference called for more information to be directed at policymakers, health and social workers, the media, international travellers, those at risk due to the nature of their jobs, blood donors as well as AIDS carriers.

Protection

This is for their own protection and because of the important role they play in containing the disease.

The London conference appealed to the participants to exchange education programmes but some participants suggested it should be done on a regional basis in view of the marked difference in lifestyles and ethical norms among various countries.

Kuwait's International Conference on AIDS opens on Monday at 9 am at the Sheraton Hotel and all sessions will be open for the public.

Razzak meets ministry officials

KUWAIT'S Public Health Minister, Dr. Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak was introduced in a meeting to the ministry's senior officials by the new Planning Minister Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi. The officials included the undersecretary, assistant undersecretaries, head of departments and directors of health areas and ministry departments.

Dr. Abdul Razzak praised the work done by the former minister Dr. Awadi and later listened to the concerns of the department heads, which included the shortage of technical manpower in a number of hospitals. Dr. Abdul Razzak, speaking to the group, stressed the importance of closely monitoring the use of drugs.

Entrance test

THE common entrance test for admission to May College will be held at the Indian Embassy premises on Feb 27 at 8.30 am. Candidates taking this examination should report to the embassy on this date.

Freedom

He said higher education needed a minister who was proud of his experience and at the same time respected the experience of others, adding that the new minister should prepare a cooperative atmosphere among the teaching staff in place of the tension that prevailed at present.

Dr. Al Haddad said the minister must realize that the university was part and parcel of the community's social structure and would be affected by it.

He believed it was a basic need for the minister to respect the university's independence, adding that academic freedom must be given with regard to lectures and scientific research.

The new minister should bring about satisfaction and equality among teaching staff, and set up the necessary regulations and administrative procedures to govern the different departments of the university and applied institutes, he said.

Law

A member of the education faculty, Dr. Mohammed Al Musailem, said the government's recent step was the right one, adding that the establishing of Higher Education Ministry was in line with the country's educational aspirations.

He said that educated people in this country had been looking forward to such a step in view of the growing importance of higher education which required a devoted body to look after it.

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Curb on spending resulted in shortage of staff

THE Director of Kuwait's Jaha Health Area Dr. Abdul Aziz Khalaf said the ministry's policy of curbing spending at hospitals and health centres had resulted in a shortage of technical personnel such as doctors and nurses.

He said the general medicine system would be implemented at the Minors Health Centre this March and praised Kuwait's health services, which he described as comparable to the highest international standards.

Khalaf added that the performance of Kuwaiti doctors was excellent and that they had proven their ability to fulfill all the responsibilities required of their profession.

The number of deaths reported in the Intensive Care Unit, he explained, were the result of the critical nature of the cases. Khalaf added that the hospital and health centre in Jaha treated a total of 129,000 out-patients daily.

Amir's support hailed

BOARD Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Foundation, Yousef Jassim Al Hajji, hailed the continuous support extended to the foundation by the HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

The statement came at a meeting for the foundation's board of directors to discuss reports of the investment and Da'wa (Islamic call) committees within the foundation's intensive efforts at the world level and the visits paid by its delegates to Niger, Sudan, Somalia and Egypt in pursuit of the foundation's charitable projects.

Direct dialling urged

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications has advised the public to use direct dialling when making international calls rather than operator-assisted calls. He explained that with direct dialling the caller is charged only for the number of minutes on the line, while operator-assisted calls had a three-minute minimum charge.

For example, a one minute direct-dial call to the US would cost KD1 and a one-minute operator-assisted call to the US would cost KD3.



Kuwait free to seek its defence needs

KUWAIT is free in seeking its defence needs without reliance on any particular party, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Washington, Sheikh Saad Nasser Al Sabah said in a statement published in a Kuwaiti newspaper yesterday.

The ambassador added that Kuwait has been beefing up its defence systems through assistance from "multiple expertise for limited periods."

He categorically denied Kuwait had sought, in any particular way, the despatch of American forces to the international waters in the Arabian Gulf, and stressed that it only had requested re-registering some Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag.

Relying to a question on current American moves to activate peace in the Middle East, Sheikh Saad said the Reagan administration is seeking to start Arab-Israeli peace talks after interim Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza lasting about one year compared to five years proposed under the Camp David accords.

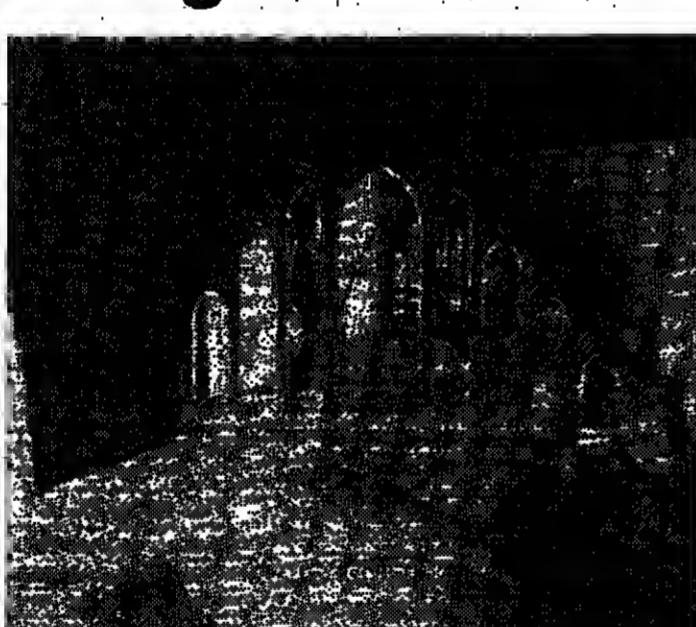
He pointed out that the American proposals crystallized in talks which Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had with top American officials in Washington this week.

Alcohol and drug control society planned

DR Ibrahim Marouf, the Director of Kuwait's Psychiatric Disorders Hospital, announced plans to establish an Alcohol and Drug Control Society in Kuwait. He added that 27 officials from the ministries of Social Affairs and Labour, Interior, Public Health and Education had requested that such a society be founded in an effort to control alcohol and drug addiction in the country.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Dr. Ibrahim said the proposed society would provide treatment for drug and alcohol addiction and organise educational programmes to inform the public of the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.

The society would also provide financial aid to families whose sole wage-earner was undergoing drug rehabilitation, he said, and would contribute to regulations controlling drugs and alcohol supported by the government.



The black and gold end of the furniture is quite a revelation to those like me who have had a sheltered life far removed from Lebanon's fantasies of Louis Quinze gilt bordello chippendale.

Mount several mirrors among the foldovers of the headboard and the mirror tile pillars, make a matching dressing table with a chair like the Galactic emperor's throne and put a price label of five thousand dinars on the whole horrifying mess. Maybe, someone will buy it.

Then there was the shower, a magnificence of marble about the size of an average living room, complete with three romanesque pillars, four metres high. The carved and fluted white marble pillars trailing green vines and framing a shower on the left and a huge sunken whirlpool bath on the right. Monstrous vanity, giddy delusions of grandeur, such a bathroom might have been just the ticket for Caesar Augustus or someone who'd just been conquering Gaul and needed a place to wash up and change his armour, but for Salwa?

But then the merely garish became positively lurid and a kind of megalomania takes over. The bedroom is where it strikes, bedroom suites for the emperor and empress of the universe. How can I describe a bed built with headboard of pillars of mirror mosaic tile interspersed with shrouds and folds of silk with a pattern that can only be described as technicolour vomit. Then scatter the bed with half a

dozen pillows covered in gold and silver lame and shaped like hearts. Okay, now raise up the whole bed on a sort of plinth, a bit like Lenin's tomb, and have a set of steps leading up to the bed, all covered in the same kind of silk, preferably shot through with gold thread so it sparkles and spangles.

Then there is the shower, a magnificence of marble about the size of an average living room, complete with three romanesque pillars, four metres high. The carved and fluted white marble pillars trailing green vines and framing a shower on the left and a huge sunken whirlpool bath on the right. Monstrous vanity, giddy delusions of grandeur, such a bathroom might have been just the ticket for Caesar Augustus or someone who'd just been conquering Gaul and needed a place to wash up and change his armour, but for Salwa?

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Many campers prefer spring vacation in late February

ALTHOUGH weather conditions have not exactly been what campers expected during the spring holidays, some of them remain in the hope that weather conditions will improve.

Many campers complained that moving up the date for spring vacation for government schools to January instead of late February created a lot of problems, most of them related to the cold weather and rain. Visits to clinics for treatment of colds were common.

Others commented that it was too early and still too cold for some of the desert grasses and flowers to sprout, which was something they missed.

Seayassah newspaper interviewed a number of campers who were determined to enjoy their

annual camping and most of them agreed that the vacation simply came at a bad time. Many commented that they preferred having the vacation in late February when the weather was sure to be warmer and the desert greener.

Reconsider

Campers requested Education Ministry officials to reconsider scheduling the spring vacation to a later date. Some added that since their children had returned to school, they go to work in the mornings, but return to their tents in the afternoon. Weekends are spent again at the campsite with the family and friends, they said.

Those interviewed praised the efforts of the government in providing security and trash collection services for campers. They added, however, that there were some reckless drivers who disturbed campers occasionally and there had been some incidents of theft reported.



Dr Wang Hoi is served traditional Arabic coffee at the Sharq Public Cafe during his recent visit.

14,000 students to benefit from computer project

THE director of the computer connection to secondary schools project, Dr. Humoud Al Saadoun, said that the computer had been connected to four boys schools and four girls schools in each of the five educational areas.

He added that about 14,000 students would benefit from the project in the meantime.

Dr. Al Saadoun, who is also an instructor at the engineering faculty of Kuwait University, said the first stage of the project aims at letting students familiarise themselves with the computer.

Training

He said the idea of connecting the computer to secondary schools was initiated by Kuwait's National Computer Council.

He said that the project management had decided to provide teachers by appointing computer graduates of the Science Faculty and some science teachers to ensure sufficient teachers to have computers at all secondary schools.

He hoped the project would cover all general education schools, including primary schools, within two years.



Dr Humoud Al Saadoun

— one a graduate in computers and the other an experienced teacher with training in the computer field.

Dr. Al Saadoun said the management was engaged in providing a series of training courses to ensure sufficient teachers to have computers at all secondary schools.

He hoped the project would cover all general education schools, including primary schools, within two years.

He said that each school had been provided with two teachers

Science museum marks 16th anniversary

KUWAIT Science Museum celebrated its 16th anniversary yesterday, with a total of 3.2 million visitors enjoying the museum since its establishment in 1972. In 1978, 257,785 people visited the museum, officials said, and the lowest yearly number was 89,823 in 1973.

Students from various educational levels have toured the museum and tours are scheduled in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The daily average for the number of students who visit the museum ranges between 2,000 and 2,500.

In 1954, the museum received the first airplane used by Kuwait

Seminar on protecting public utilities

A SEMINAR on protecting public utilities was held yesterday at Al Amadi for intermediate school students as part of the Model Governorate Week.

The speakers were the head of the research and study department at the Interior Ministry, Colonel Abdul Majid Khurshid, a researcher, Nedal Al Fudairi, and an official of the Public Works Ministry, Jassim Al Shatti.

They explained ways and means of protecting public utilities, and told students about the role they could play in protecting these utilities. They also spoke about the amounts spent by the government on public services and projects.

Leaflet case trial begins

THE State Security Court yesterday started trial of a Kuwaiti national accused of distributing leaflets inciting overthrow of the present system in the country.

Sitting under its president, Justice Minahmed Abdul Hai Al Banna, the court session heard an indictment list made by the state prosecutor against Ismail Hassan Sayed Al Akber, 31.

He is accused of publicly inciting, through writing in public places, overthrow of the existing regime in Kuwait by force and illegal means. The prosecution also accused Ismail Akber of distributing in several public places copies of a leaflet urging citizens to reject the present system of government, revolt against it and to work for its replacement by force and all illegal means.

According to the indictment sheet, the accused also publicly defamed, in writing, the Amiri personality by distributing a leaflet containing slander against the Amir of Kuwait.

Following a request by the prosecution, the court decided to meet behind closed doors to maintain public order and in regard of circumstances of the case.

Search for water

ABU DHABI, Feb 6, (Reuters): The United States and the United Arab Emirates today signed a four-year agreement under which American satellites will search for water in the UAE, embassy officials said.

The sources said Wakil would also visit Libya, Syria and Jordan to seek backing for his government.

Joint Arab military industry likely

ABU DHABI, Feb 6, (Kuna): Head of the Arab authority for military manufacturing Ibrahim Larabi underlined the possibility of establishing a joint Arab military industry saying Egyptian military industry can meet the Arab countries' weapon requirements.

Al Widhi issued here today quoted Larabi saying that military industry base in Egypt has the potential for producing aircraft if financed by a number of Arab states. He recalled that Egypt has developed the Al Al Sagger (Hawk eye) rocket, adding that contacts are currently underway to export the rocket to a number of Arab states.

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GOING PLACES

SRI LANKA'S best known film actress Malini Fonseka has played "almost all the roles that anyone ever wanted to" in real life. Not so in real life, though. Malini wanted to be a doctor but "dropped into films due to my interest in acting."

Malini started her career in films more than 20 years ago. And in as many years, she has won 32 awards — all the top awards Sri Lanka offers to its performers. Unlike film stars, Malini takes success in her stride and like so many other things, she accepts the accolades with humility and says: "Well, it just happened."

Malini's film and personal achievements seem to be a matter of a series of accidents. She became an "actress by chance." She met her husband, Lucky Dias, by chance. And now, just happened, she has gone into production and direction.

She won critical acclaim for her performance in her own production, *Sasara Cheina*, an action-thriller that became one of the top hits in 1981. She has, so far, acted in 120 films.

She happens to be a very private person, never giving away anything about her personal life, jealously guarding the private moments of glory with an infectious smile and a twinkle in her doe-eyes.

Film stars and glamour are synonymous. Not so for Malini and Lucky. Glamour — being in the public eye — is just another part of "our lives." If they are mobbed, they "don't get upset" but enjoy "sharing some moments with people who adore our work."

"We are not extraordinary people. We are just normal human beings," they say to us. If they could they'd

Lucky by chance

demand more time to "be together."

"We hardly spend any time together," they say. When Lucky is out, Malini is in. When she is out, he is in. "I wish I could spend more time with my wife," says Lucky, as Malini nods, agreeing with her husband of two years.

They get an opportunity to relax only when they go on trips, like the one to Kuwait.

Sri Lanka has a relatively smaller film industry, producing an average of 30 films per year in nearly all genres, social, comedy, action, adventure and thrillers. "Art films" with a serious theme are also made and they deal with topical social problems. Though the government supports the film industry and established the National Film Development Corporation, the country is yet to get an acting school.

"All our performers have an in-born talent for acting," says Malini, lamenting the absence of an acting school, "like my husband who has a natural ability to perform."

Lucky is only one film old star in Malini's production, *Abhina*, now running to full houses in Colombo. He started his career in advertising and considers himself to be an "ad man" and still runs a business in Colombo. "I came from nowhere and was dumped into the world of films," says Lucky. His heart, though, lies in making television, a medium he sees as reaching "more people in an hour than a film does in months." An estimated 4.5 million people watch television regularly in Sri Lanka, according to Lucky.

Lucky was last year chosen as

the most popular actor on TV after appearing in a 15-part serial called *Yoshorwaya*. He has recently completed another series called *Himi, Abhini* loosely translated as "Lost and Found," revolving around the lives of a brother, a driver, and sister, a maid, who returned from the Gulf.

Their lifestyle changes due to the wealth they earn in the Gulf. But they lose perspective of values, losing knowledge of things that matter, thus the title *Himi, Abhini*, he explained.

The serial, based on a novel by Edward Mallavarachi, will be shown in Sri Lanka in April this year. Lucky has also completed work for three other films, which will be released shortly. And Malini is currently planning her next venture, a film revolving around the problem of women.

They also plan to organise a Sri Lankan film festival in Kuwait and the Gulf.

"Our cinema is good but not many people are aware about its progress. We'd like to show some of our good films to cultivate cultural relations between Sri Lanka and the Gulf states," they said.

In Kuwait, the two stars were welcomed by thousands of Sri Lankans at a festival, they attended on Friday, and also celebrated Lucky's birthday amid much cheering from crowds.

Lucky and Malini, who arrived last week, return to Colombo tonight after spending a "delightful holiday" in Kuwait. The trip, certainly, was not by chance.

FA



A moment of sharing: Lucky shares the cake with wife Malini

They treat me as one of the boys

"THEY are treating me as one of the boys," Jeanne Southworth, the only female member of a British trade mission which visited Kuwait last week, told us.

Jeanne admits doing business is tough, particularly for a woman. "It can be very lonely and competitive," she said. A firm believer in women's rights, she supports the idea of more women managing their own businesses.

"The concept of women in business is normally accepted in UK, I believe women are doing business in this part of the world too. I think this is a good trend," she said.

Making a business trip to the Gulf requires businessmen, particularly businesswomen, to be very open-minded.

Jeanne came to Kuwait with an open mind but "very little experience" of the market. She was impressed by the response from local businessmen.

"Men in Kuwait accept the idea of doing business with a woman," she said. Jeanne said her main task was to "study the potential of the market" before establishing business ties. She feels the prospects are rather



Jeanne Southworth: businesswoman

good.

Jeanne, who has been in business for several years, feels that combining an executive job with marriage and home life can often prove taxing. "One needs complete understanding on the part of both partners. If this is possible, it is just fantastic," she said.

Jeanne, who is the sales manager of Hilden, a textile firm, is training her assistant to handle business in Europe and UK. She will cover regional markets in the Middle East and other markets worldwide.

LK

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News Via Satellite

3.30 Total Al Ma'aib: cartoons

4.00 News Summary

4.05 News Magazine D'Actualite

4.25 Nuruddin Zanki: daily historical serial; starring Laila Taher, Ali Hassan.

5.30 Al Manahat: series for children featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab, Songs and Music

6.00 News Summary

7.05 Soora Min Al Tabbiya: documentary

7.30 Diwaniyat Shura Al Nah: poetry session Good Evening and Local News

8.15 News Arabic

9.30 Photography: daily Arabic serial; featuring Abdullah Ghaita, Madiha Hamdi.

10.30 An Al Safar (About Travel): Fawzia Abbasi talks about planning travel and how to make holiday plans work.



The story of Ford: The Man and the Machine continues tonight at 10.30 pm.

11.50 News Summary
11.55 World News Via Satellite

12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Lone Ranger: "The Great Balloon Race." The Lone Ranger and his Red Indian friend participate in an exciting race.

10.30 Besi-Seller: "Ford Part 2." Ford appoints a power-hungry sailor, Harry Bennett, to ride his only son. His relationship with Evangelio, his mistress, is also revealed.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

loses his job and Charlie comes to his rescue.

7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local show on Islam.

7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a light-hearted look at sporting events.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Hot Shots: "Absent Minded." Amanda Reed (Dorothy Parke) and Jason West help a private eye find the real killer of an industrialist.

9.30 Foley Square: "Jack's Back." Jack, a criminal put behind bars by Alex, is paroled and threatens Alex.

10.00 Q.E.D.: "Before Your Time." A look at the four dimensions: space, distance and time in the universe.

10.30 Besi-Seller: "Ford Part 2." Ford appoints a power-hungry sailor, Harry Bennett, to ride his only son. His relationship with Evangelio, his mistress, is also revealed.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Hotel holds reception



555-FIRST CLASS VALUE



Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

German-Speaking Cultural Association

The next coffee morning will be held on Sunday, Feb 7, at 10 am at Kuwait Hilton Hotel's Old Failaka room. All German-speaking ladies are welcome.

Kuwait Natural History Group

The next meeting of the group will be held on Feb 9, Tuesday, 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School. Mahmoud Shabbah of the Science Museum will give an illustrated talk on "The Reptiles of Kuwait."

Kuwait Society for Handicapped

An open souk featuring everything from silks to groceries, silverware to rugs and toys, is being held at the premises of the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, behind Andalus Cinema, Cairo St. Open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 3 to 7 pm, until Feb 15.

Photography contest

Kapilkumar will hold a photography contest for Filipinos called "Portrait of Filipinos in Kuwait." Entry forms are available from all Filipino restaurants and the Philippines Embassy. Last date to enter the competition, which is open only to members of Kapilkumar March 1. For further details contact Dick Orense — 4877793.

Music Concert '88

Adeeb, Lynley (vocals), Amaan (guitar/vocals), Aasim (keyboard-synthesizer), Murtaza (bass guitar) and Raza (drums) will participate in the Music Concert '88, due to be held on Feb 19 at Al Andalus Cinema. They will present a variety of songs by Duran Duran, Europe, Bon Jovi and others. Tickets available at Al Andalus box office. For details contact — 5618482 or 3983165 (Adeeb).

Kuwait Welsh Society

Annual St. David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
Ballet lessons for children will be held on Sundays and Tuesdays from 5 to 6 pm. Tel: 5624393 for details.

Kuwait Rondels

Aiden J. Harvey (British TV comedy impressionist) will be the special guest at the Kuwait Rondels 1988 Gala Anoual Ball at Messilah Beach Hotel on Feb 11, Thursday. Tables available for six, 10 or 12 people. Dress formal, lounge suit. Tickets — KD 10. For reservations ring Paul Richards — 5337597; Martin Cheetah — 4745916.

Flask will hold a Valentine's dinner-musical at 6.30 pm Feb 12, Friday, at Al Dira Ballroom, Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Free transport will be provided from the Church from 6 pm. For tickets ring 2439451, Mabuhay or Lords restaurant.

Danish Meeting

All Danes are invited to the "Fastelavn" party on Feb 12, 1 pm, at the Gazelle Club. For reservations contact Connie — 3947693; Karen-Marie — 3946725. Feb 9 is the last date for registration.

ACT

Any Texans or adopted Texans interested in helping with ACT's March 3 Texas Independence Day Party please contact 5725071; 2528366; 5639204.

ARTS

Tareq Rajab Museum
The museum is open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, except Friday, when it is open only in the mornings. A large selection of Islamic artefacts from the Arab and Muslim world are on show.

National Museum

Modern art paintings by Kuwaiti artist Ahmed Al Muntasir are displayed at the National Museum; open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 6 pm.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
Tap dancing auditions (men and women) will be held at the Universal American School at 7.30 pm on Monday, Feb 8, for the play Stepping Out, which will be directed by Ken Winslow.

Final casting takes place at the same venue at 3 pm on Feb 11, Thursday. One more oodancing role for an actress who can play the piano. Those interested attend auditions or call Ken Winston — 5385075 or Glenn, producer, 5730641.

CINEMA

British Council
The Young Sherlock Holmes and the Pyramid of Fear, a Steven Spielberg production, will be shown on Feb 13/14 at 6.30 pm at the British Council in Mansouriya. Duration: 105 minutes.

Two children's films — Five Go To Mystery Moor and Five Go Off To Camp, based on Enid Blyton's Famous Five books, will be shown at 6 pm on Feb 10 (Wednesday) and at 10.30 am on Feb 11 (Thursday). Duration: 71 minutes.

Admission free but it is advisable to make bookings. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Films and the Law

Films and the Law is the title given to an American film festival, which will be held from Feb 13 to 17 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The following films will be shown on: Feb 13: Mr Smith Goes to Washington. Feb 14: Modern Times; Feb 15: The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman; Feb 16: All the King's Men; and Feb 17: The Best Man.

All shows begin at 7.30 pm sharp. Children are not allowed inside the auditorium.

The festival has been organised by the American Embassy in tandem with Kuwait Cine Club.

SPORTS

Ladies Sports Club

Application forms are available from the Ras Al Aridha Club for the proposed Ladies Sports Club. The Ras Club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

Soccer Team

A group of young Italians are organising a European soccer team. If you are interested please contact Carlo on Tel: 2445120/1/2/3/4.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

CONSTANT togetherness is fine — but only for Siamese twins — Victoria Billings, US journalist-writer (1945—).

OPINION

Let us pray for the success of uprising

LET'S only pray that the youths of Palestine are successful. We should only pray and assist them, leaving those from outside of Palestine to try and prove they were behind the revolution.

We must understand that this is a revolution from inside and that any fighting from outside will return things to the way they were many years ago when the Palestinian action outside of Palestine created about 60 organisations.

The cost of the fighting among these organisations could have an impact on Israel if it had been spent on a true revolution like the one we see now from inside, the aim of which is to liberate the occupied territories and end the occupation.

This revolution does not aim at achieving false prestige or cashing in on the name of Palestine and the refugee camps. These funds were even spent on forming organisations to kill and collect more funds, at a time when Palestinians were waiting under occupation; waiting, but receiving nothing except false statements and theories from these organisations' leaders.

The number of these organisations at one time totalled over 50, with each one accusing the other of being a traitor. One says Abu Saleh is a traitor, another accuses Abu Faleh of being a traitor and an agent for colonialism and Zionism for the East and the West. A third organisation claims that all others are traitors and it is the only one dedicated to liberating Palestine, even though it is based in Paris, or London, or perhaps Australia. They have been fighting to see who would be the first to enjoy the fruits of liberation.

Today, the home-grown Palestine revolution, enters its third month, and up to now they have not announced their real leadership. They have only raised the banners of "Allah is Great" and "Victory or death," besides the Palestinian flag, which has been unseen in Palestine for 40 years.

The Palestinian revolutionaries are undoubtedly disturbed by the struggle of regimes which have taken place and about who should represent the revolution. They are disturbed by the attempts being made to claim responsibility for this revolution by some of the groups.

All these factors are unimportant now. What is really important is that the revolution continues, that it should overthrow the enemy and liberate the lands. Now, we want the lands — other issues can be decided later. We want the lands and not its leadership. We just want to enjoy the fragrance of Palestine and do not want to hear the beat of drums for a leadership based 10,000 miles from Palestine.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Bonn-Paris ties rooted in realism

By William Echikson

PARIS: When Francoise Elkouby was growing up in the border town of Strasbourg, she was ashamed because her parents spoke the local German dialect at home. Today, she worries because her children don't speak German.

"Before it was natural to dislike the Germans. Now, I can't imagine what we would do without them," explains Mrs Elkouby, a Strasbourg town official. "The Germans do their shopping here, they employ thousands of French. We even treat their garbage."

French ties to West Germany are rooted in the realism that their prosperity and peace depend on maintaining good relations. West Germany is France's largest trading partner, and West German security is crucial to France's security.

But a danger lurks in this close identification. The French often are quicker than any other West Europeans to worry about West Germany. Their worries centre on one word: nationalism.

Will West Germany, tempted by some offer of reunification with East Germany, break loose from its Western anchor? A neutral, reunited Germany would threaten France, both because of its enormous economic weight and because of its potential military power.

French fears of German nationalism come and go. The fears now are high. French officials argue that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev wants to split the West Germany with disarmament agreements and the promise of closer relations with East Germany.

"The German question isn't something we take as armchair theorising," notes one French diplomat. "There is a strong public opinion within Germany favourable to reunification and neutrality."

Resemblance

Just as West Germany's national aspirations conflict with French interests, German economic needs also are different. Last year, the French pleaded with the Germans to hold down their interest rates

and reflate their economy. Unless West Germany helps out, the French cannot stimulate their own economy without sucking in a flood of German imports and creating a balance of trade problem.

Germany resembles Japan in many ways, with its strong export sector, its strong savings, and its limited domestic needs because of a declining population," notes Georges Valance, an economic analyst at the news-weekly *Le Point*. "France, by contrast, looks more like the United States, with its dependence on agricultural and arms exports, its low savings rate, and its balance of trade problems."

These differences make for inevitable friction, but some French analysts say the tensions are those of growing intimacy, not breakdown.

Polis show the French prefer the Germans to any of their other neighbours — including the British. When the newspaper *Le Monde* asked Frenchmen what qualities best describe West Germany, more than three-fourths responded "democratic" and "tolerant." Only two per cent described West Germany as "anti-democratic."

The Germans are looked upon as standard by which the French judge their own performance. The *Le Monde* poll showed that while the French perceive the British as economic failures, they associate the Germans with things they admire: hard-work, competitiveness, creativity.

Pushing

"The British are insular ... They criticise us all the time," says one French diplomat. "With the Germans we get the feeling that we both are European, that we can work out our problems."

Worried though they are by some West German policies, the French refuse to turn away from their ally. Instead, they are pushing for increased cooperation.

On the economic front, French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur doesn't want to pull France out of the European Monetary System which ties the franc to the mark. The Christian Science Monitor



Iran stalls on new offensive

War a guessing game

By Ed Blanche

BAGHDAD, (AP): Iran's hesitation in launching a long-anticipated Gulf war offensive is keeping the Iraqis guessing and fueling speculation that Tehran is stalling while it makes diplomatic moves to split Baghdad's Arab supporters.

The absence of a major offensive has also heightened the belief that, despite reports Iran has massed up to 250,000 men on the southern front, Tehran is having difficulties mobilising.

Western military analysts, Iranian dissidents and diplomats estimate that Tehran has mobilised only 100,000 fighters since November.

They believe this means it is unlikely Iran will launch a major thrust against the battered port city of Basra, where the Iraqis have been reinforcing their defences since a major Iranian offensive a year ago that involved more than 250,000 men.

A recent Iranian thrust into the northern Kurdistan mountains is widely seen as a diversionary morale-boosting move while Tehran seeks a ceasefire in the so-called "tanker war" in the Gulf.

Iran air strikes on Iranian oil facilities and tankers off Iran apparently are seriously hitting into Iran's oil exports, its main source of revenue.

Syria, Iran's main Arab ally, is trying to mediate between Tehran and the GCC. But Iraq, Syria's longtime rival, has made it clear it does not want to see Damascus making political capital with the Gulf states while it balances its trade problems.

These differences make for inevitable friction, but some French analysts say the tensions are those of growing intimacy, not breakdown.

Polis show the French prefer the Germans to any of their other neighbours — including the British. When the newspaper *Le Monde* asked Frenchmen what qualities best describe West Germany, more than three-fourths responded "democratic" and "tolerant." Only two per cent described West Germany as "anti-democratic."

The Germans are looked upon as standard by which the French judge their own performance. The *Le Monde* poll showed that while the French perceive the British as economic failures, they associate the Germans with things they admire: hard-work, competitiveness, creativity.

Pushing

"The British are insular ... They criticise us all the time," says one French diplomat. "With the Germans we get the feeling that we both are European, that we can work out our problems."

Worried though they are by some West German policies, the French refuse to turn away from their ally. Instead, they are pushing for increased cooperation.

On the economic front, French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur doesn't want to pull France out of the European Monetary System which ties the franc to the mark. The Christian Science Monitor

not achieving an overall Gulf war settlement.

The Iraqis have tried to keep the pot boiling by attacking Iranian tanks, forcing Iran into retaliating against neutral Gulf shipping.

But it is on land that the Iraqis have a 3-1 advantage in manpower. Most analysts believe they have to exploit this advantage if they want to make major military impact.

Analysts see Iran's failure to launch an offensive as it has done every winter since 1984, as a sign that Tehran is baying problems recruiting sufficient troops.

Factors

There are other factors apparently inhibiting Tehran:

• Parliamentary elections are scheduled for April 8.

"After the failure to take Basra last year, no one wants another defeat on their hands right now," one analyst noted. That could mean no significant military move until late spring, well into the winter campaign season when bad weather neutralises Iraq's air and tank superiority.

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effective, could have serious consequences for Iran. By acting restrained, Tehran may be trying to avoid an embargo resolution.

While most analysts rule out a single, all-out offensive, they believe Iran will have to keep up the military pressure with smaller, tactical thrusts.

One likely target is Al-Amarah, halfway between Baghdad and Basra. It lies on the fringe of the Howiezah marshes, which form a protective barrier north of Basra.

The Shatt Al Arab, the 219-kilometre (137-mile) waterway that runs through Basra has also been swollen by heavy winter rains and is reported higher than it has been for 30 years.

• Defence

To counter any Iranian push, the Iraqis have massed an estimated 50 per cent of their million-strong Army in the south. The area around Basra bristles with tanks, missile launchers, heavy artillery and helicopter gunships.

President Saddam Hussein dismissed Chief of Staff Gen. Jawad Thanoon following last year's fighting, when the Iraqis battled into Basra's outskirts before being beaten back, and replaced him with Gen. Nizam Abdal Karim Al Khazraji.

The Iraqis have built a grid of interlocking military roads on raised earthen embankments in the southern region to improve mobility in moving troops to threatened sectors.

They have also extended a formidable 90-kilometre (55-mile) line of fortifications running north from Basra by another 30 kilometres (19 miles).

On the one hand, about 200 political prisoners have been paroled since last year and emigration, mainly Jewish, has increased eight-fold in the past 12 months.

On the other, many unknown people are still detained in jail or

Little evidence of glasnost in East Bloc states

By Colin McIntyre

VIENNA. (Reuters): For 200 young East German peace activists arrested last month for trying to march on to an official parade, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for "glasnost" or openness, has a hollow ring.

In Czechoslovakia, while the communist leadership tentatively embraces glasnost and its twin reform "perestroika" (restructuring), the Charter 77 human rights activists continue to be bounded by police.

In Poland, regarded as one of East Europe's more open societies, a peaceful demonstration earlier this month in protest against alleged human rights abuses in Romania was snuffed out by security forces in less than a minute.

In Romania itself, there is little sign of liberalisation in the autocratic system run by President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Workers who rioted over food shortages last November were quickly rounded up and the ring-leaders jailed.

• Rejected

Ceausescu has openly dismissed the need for glasnost and perestroika, arguing that Romania introduced similar reforms two decades ago and needed merely to perfect these.

Yet there are also signs that Moscow's call for a more open dialogue between different strands of opinion in society is at least gaining a foothold in some of its allies.

In Hungary, which is generally regarded as East Europe's most liberal and open regime, there are indications that the once all-embracing Communist Party is prepared to allow a greater role to elected members in government and Parliament.

Even in Czechoslovakia, where a nervous leadership has run a tight regime after crushing the 1968 "Prague spring" reform of Alexander Dubcek, the security forces allowed a peaceful demonstration on international human rights day to go ahead after it had been officially banned.

The differing and often contradictory responses to Gorbachev's appeal suggest to diplomats that a struggle is going on in the region between reformers, who see an opening up of the secretive communist system as essential for improved economic performance, and conservatives who fear it will open a Pandora's box of dissent.

Western diplomats believe Moscow is not forcing its allies to rush into reforms, but is prepared to let them go at their own pace provided their economies deliver the goods they have pledged under joint agreements.

Soviet reformers appear to have their own problems at home, where each step forward seems to be matched by a step back.

On the one hand, about 200 political prisoners have been paroled since last year and emigration, mainly Jewish, has increased eight-fold in the past 12 months.

On the other, many unknown people are still detained in jail or

refused exit visas, little has been done to free dissidents from psychiatric clinics, and religious education outside the family is still a crime.

An international human rights delegation was allowed to visit Moscow last week to meet Soviet officials, dissidents and unofficial groups. A few hours after most delegates had left the country, police broke up a meeting between two of them and dissidents.

In East Germany, which has been openly reluctant to head down Gorbachev's reformist path, the authorities have cracked down on a small but active peace and human rights movement sheltering under the umbrella of the Protestant church.

Many of the 200 demonstrators detained last month were seeking emigration, and around 60 were shipped to the West. Some other detainees, however, were apparently determined to stay and continue their fight for reforms.

Diplomats in East Berlin saw the authorities' action as an attempt to stamp out growing demands for reforms. Some believed it may have backfired on the authorities by sparking a growing number of well-attended church meetings.

Illegal

In Poland, police earlier this week dispersed a demonstration outside the Romanian Embassy and detained at least 50 people, though they were later released.

According to opposition sources, there are 21 political prisoners in Polish jails. The government denies there are any, saying all were found guilty of criminal offences.

Solidarity, the independent trade union that grew out of worker protests in 1980, is still illegal.

But at the same time, in contrast to most other communist countries, there are two significant opposition parties whose members are occasionally harassed by the authorities but whose activities, while regarded as illegal, are tolerated.

The Polish authorities also broke new ground in liberalisation when they announced last month they would introduce an alternative to military service for conscientious objectors, including pacifists and members of religious sects.

Jailed

Even in Hungary, with its relatively liberal system, those refusing military service are put in jail for up to three years.

Diplomats in Czechoslovakia have noticed no major changes in official attitudes, though dissidents are no longer routinely sentenced to long prison terms.

Only last month police broke up a meeting of Charter 77 activists after rounding up at least 10 leading members in an effort to block the meeting in a Prague restaurant.

Charter member Vaclav Benda said recently: "The situation is bad, but the people are getting more optimistic. They see the Charter existing for 11 years, and are starting to realise

A unique manifestation of Soviet counterculture

Hippies survive in Moscow

By Linda Feldmann

MOSCOW: It's three in the afternoon. I ring the doorbell several times, long and loud. After several minutes, a still-half-asleep girl, hair askew, opens the door.

"Hold on a minute, let us get dressed," she says. "Solmi works nights, you know."

Solmi — a sobriquet taken from two notes of the musical scale — is one of Moscow's better-known hippies, or in his own words, "something of an artist, partly a poet, and an entirely tiny bit musician."

The walls of his grimy one-room apartment are covered floor to ceiling with his work — colourful Peter Max-esque can-

vases and collages depicting scenes from other worlds. Works in progress are strewn about the floor. Most amusing is a collage made from the signed pages of his internal passport, a document all Soviet citizens over 16 years old must carry. This creation isn't a political statement, Solmi insists.

"I live in Terra Concordia, the land of harmony — that's my country," he declares. "Everything you see is my country. It's here and it's there, in the astral. I live there. I'm president of Terra Concordia, therefore I don't need a Soviet passport. Well, of course, I need it as long as I am here — you have to resign yourself to conditions."

It is a small movement — by reported KGB (secret police) estimates, 70,000 people nationwide — and one hardly associated with the kind of mass concerts and antiwar protests that epitomised American hippiedom. The watchwords are familiar: peace, love, and freedom — in the Soviet context, freedom of expression and the freedom to live and travel where one chooses. Hitchhiking is the preferred mode of transportation. Hanging out is a favourite pastime.

Though Solmi insists that happiness isn't even a movement — "it's a condition of the soul" — the system maintains a distinct identity in the small but visible world of the Soviet counterculture. At any rock concert, hippies are sure to turn up. They frequently gather in apartments for their own, unofficial concerts and art exhibits. Hippie poetry, which Solmi is collecting for an almanac, actively circulates in the hippie underground network. Richard Bach's "Illusions" and Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" are must readings.

Hippie calling cards crop up around Moscow from time to time — the words "Street of Love," for example, painted over an official street sign. In the late '60s, a hippie called

"Red Pants" literally made his name by hanging a giant pair of red Levi Strauss jeans from the "Moscow sign" on one of the main arteries into the city. An accompanying warning, "Filming in progress! Administration of Mosfilm," left the pants undisturbed for a full month.

Asked to explain the hippie philosophy, Solmi strikes an authoritative pose on his paintbox-turned-stool and holds forth:

"To struggle for peace. It is this kind of struggle. If you don't want war, there won't be war, as John Lennon said."

Coincidentally, that means refusing military service, which earns most male hippies a stamp of "psychologically unstable" in their military documents. This represents a compromise between hippies and the government. Hippies agree to be labelled crazy and the Army avoids the annoyance in dealing with dissenters. Further, the government can dismiss hippies as abnormal, and, if it wishes, put them away in mental hospitals. Some hippies have reportedly met that fate.

If an initiative (for peace) is allowed, it is tied to the Komsomol (the Soviet Youth League). I am bitter, because in fact I love my homeland very much," Solmi says. "Now perestroika has begun, and I want to believe that it won't drown in blood, that it will continue, and after a while it will feel democracy, that it will be possible to solve many problems, including the truth of freedom."

In fact, Moscow's hippies have benefited from the easing of cultural restrictions under perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev's effort to restructure the Soviet system. In July, the relaxed government attitude toward art paved the way for the first official hippie art exhibit. A second exhibit is in the works, though complications threaten it. In August, the government sanctioned for the first time a conference of unofficial groups, the System included.

Still, official suspicion

remains. As with any Soviets who live outside the system, hippies are a thorn in the government's side, a phenomenon to be kept in check or at least out of sight. Militsia reportedly continue to detain and beat hippies.

One of the biggest hippie-police clashes of recent times took place on Sept. 6, 1986. Word had spread that Soviet television was going to film the hippies hanging out on Arbat Street. Hippie artists decided to exhibit their works to show, Solmi says, "that we're not moogles, drug addicts, and prostitutes." Hippies turned out in force, 700 of them, with flowers, balloons, children. The paddy wagons were waiting, and when all was done, 300 hippies had been rounded up, many questioned and beaten. The art was confiscated, to be returned later with great effort.

Unhappiness

Official unhappiness with hippies is backed by a sizable, and growing, conservative strain that resents their unorthodoxy. Young conservatives toughs have flexed their muscles on hippies and other fringe groups. Hippies also engender resentment in more sympathetic circles. At small informal concerts, where performers



A group of Moscow hippies hanging out in a bathroom at the city's Manege exhibition hall.

meet their expenses by passing the hat, whispers of "beggar" can be heard when hippies have no money to offer.

As with other social phenomena, glassnost (openness) has brought the first press coverage of the System — most of it a "dirty lampoon," Solmi says. The only major reportage to date appeared in September in the Moscow Komsomol paper under the headline "Barro flowers: imitation hippies — there aren't that many, but they exist."

Parasite

"Cao the System be legalised" I don't think so," the writer commented. "The hippies are a movement whose world view differs from ours, whose essence is antisocial and repressive."

The writer treated Solmi with relative kindness, describing him as not a bad sort who fell into the wrong crowd. Other hippies are just parasites who produce nothing — artistic or otherwise — for the social good.

Legally, Solmi is also a "parasite," the term for someone who doesn't hold an official job. When Solmi left for Pskov three years ago to start a commune, he lost his Moscow residency and therefore the

right to work in Moscow. When he returned, his Army colonel stepfather would not renew his residency. Recently his biological father — another "homo-military," i.e. Solmi — speak set the police on his trail. What money do Solmi and his mates live on?

"I have no idea," he says. "For 3-1/2 years I've lived on who knows what. And not because I don't want to work. I work every day. I don't sell my paintings; I give them away."

Later it comes out that Solmi's mother pays the rent.

Supertime rolls around, and the gallons of tea already consumed no longer satisfy. The visitors reluctantly accept an offer of food, and Pelican settles on a pillow in the corner to peel potatoes. When dinner is finally served on a suitcase in the middle of the room, Solmi's onnhippie sister Lena suddenly appears with a sizzling skillet of meat. Where did all this food come from?

"My mother and Solmi's mother help out with the groceries," Pelican admits, to a disapproving glance from Solmi.

Not all Soviet hippies survive this way. Some do sell their paintings and handicrafts. Some work as street cleaners or

watchmen. Maoy are students.

And, of course, the System takes care of its own. When Oleg, the only hippie in Dnepropetrovsk, arrived in Moscow a few months ago to start a band, Solmi took him in. Solmi seems to relish his role as a friend of the downtrodden and dispenser of great truths.

"Soviet bureaucracy is the most gigantic bureaucracy in the world," he declares. "The world needs love!"

Would rather there were no government at all? he is asked. Oleg, the disciple, chimes in: "We want our government to take the form that was planned from the beginning. Read the works of Lenin. His decisions would have led to a system deserving respect and attention."

For Solmi, the litmus test of perestroika is his campaign to establish an official Street of Love.

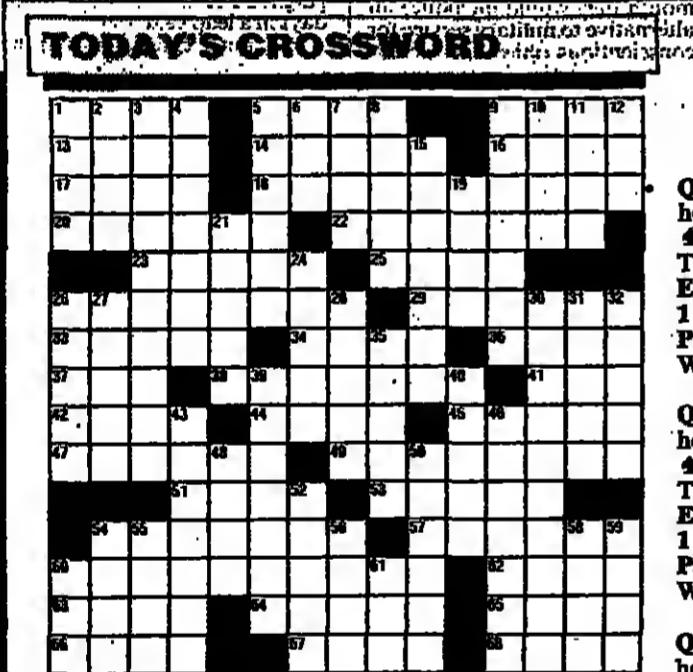
We have Electricity Lane and Ball Bearing Street. It's getting terrifying. Where are we heading? To Godless Land, and Communism cul-de-sac?

"I really want to build a Street of Love, where representation is impossible. That would be a step toward democracy."

The Christian Science Monitor.



Solmi, one of Moscow's better-known hippies, sits in his apartment with his arts work behind him.



TODAY'S CROSSWORD

WOMEN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

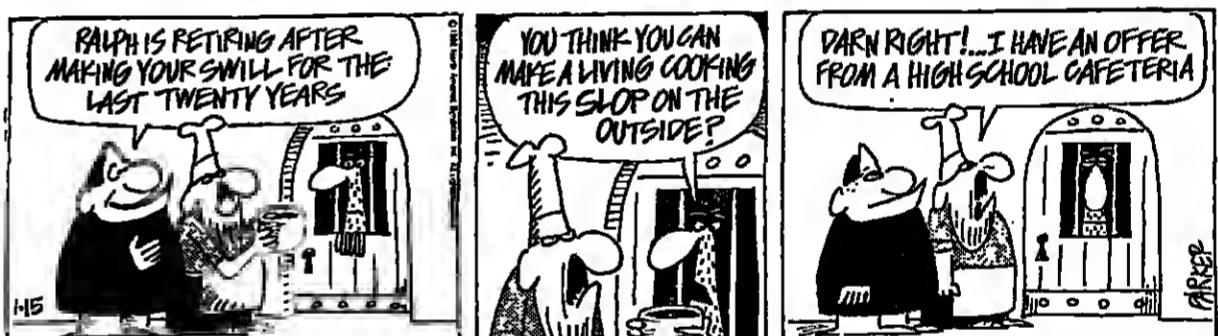
Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AQ95 ♦AQ63 ♦K103 ♦76
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East West North
 1 ♠ DN Pass 1 ♠
 Pass ?
 What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠KQ83 ♦AQ9 ♦AK87 ♦76
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 ♠
 Pass ?
 What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠KQ95 ♦3 ♦832 ♦Q10952
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South

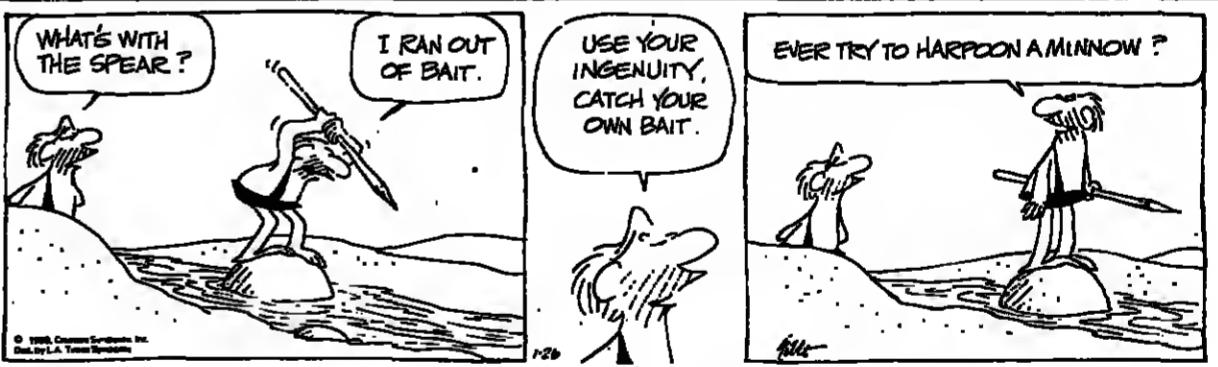
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be better able to express yourself. You should endeavour not to take on any additional commitments just now.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will tend to be a little nervous and impatient and should try to take it easy. Do not say anything you know well you do not mean. Make sure you put your family first, your personal welfare second.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be able to regain your confidence. Try not to think of work today, but do not lose your sight of your objectives. Ensure you eat a good diet. Be resilient.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

For the greater part of the day all will go like a house on fire. You should not try to hide the truth, not even from yourself. Avoid all kinds of exaggerations and distortions, Be aware of your limitations.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Not everything will be quite as you would wish it to be, but you will be able to manage. You should seek to see the funny side. Try not to get into an argument. Be more tidy.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should make sure you get enough rest, but you should not linger too long in bed. Once you have made up your mind be prepared to change it in the light of new circumstances.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

If you are beginning to put on weight, now is the time to eat and drink a little less. You will be more persuasive, but remember that charm will not get you everywhere.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should try to concentrate on what you are best at. Do not be too fond of the sound of your own voice. Avoid buying anything that is not really just because it is relatively cheap. Be conclusive.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

If you are beginning to put on weight, now is the time to eat and drink a little less. You will be more persuasive, but remember that charm will not get you everywhere.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Today you will be able to do something a little out of the ordinary. In addition to thinking about what you like give some thought to what your partner likes. Avoid trying to sweep things under the carpet.



You will be a little unsure of yourself and should try to postpone having to make a big decision. There is no need to feel sorry for yourself. You should try to exercise a little more self-control. Be generous.



SNIPPETS

Media welcome ban on domestics

THE ban on placement of Filipina maids overseas has been welcomed by the media in the Philippines. An editorial in the Manila Bulletin said: "It did not really take long for the administration to act firmly (after) complaints of maltreatment of Filipino domestic helpers working abroad."

"Once established, the administration decided to suspend and the placement of the helpers until stricter measures for their protection have been adopted."

Dogs sniff way into airport

WHEN stray dogs and cats roam the streets, it's all right. But when they sniff their way into airports and get to the way of big aeroplanes, something must be terribly wrong. Recently the Calapan Airport in Mindanao was closed by the Air Transport Office (ATO) after pilots reported stray animals crossing their path.

"We're trying to make aviation safe," said Victorio Pallatoc, ATO Chief. "But we're not getting the help we need," he complained.

Performers summoned

FILM actress Alma Moreno and TV host German Moreno were recently summoned by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for allegedly refusing to show their accounts. The Bureau is reportedly planning to summon 60 film and television personalities, including Christopher de Leon, Dolphy, Max Alvarado and Pilar Pilapil.

Aquino stops birthday fun

PRESIDENT Aquino chastised government agencies for wishing her a happy 55th birthday in television and newspaper advertisements, saying it was wrong to spend public funds for such purposes.

Ms Aquino, who celebrated her birthday Monday with the urban poor of Sapang Palay, expressed her displeasure over the ads at a meeting of her Cabinet's economic committee. "Public funds should never be

Critics slam government policy

Aquino ban on domestics infringes on personal rights



PRESIDENT Aquino's plan to temporarily ban Filipinos from working abroad as domestics could harm the country's economy and infringe on personal rights, critics said.

It will do more harm than good, they said.

"The government's declaration of a ban does not solve the problem of massive migration of Filipinos abroad," said Jorge Tigno, executive director of the Friends of Filipino Migrant Workers (KABIGAN).

The Aquino Cabinet approved the temporary ban proposed by the labour department to protect Philippine women from abuse such as sexual attacks and molestation and withhold salaries, according to government officials.

Tigino said the government was not offering alternative employment. He added that hundreds of women may violate the

ban, opening them to more abuse by foreign employers since they are not entitled to government protection.

He said the solution will be to generate more employment in the country so that Filipinos will not be forced to leave.

Aides said Aquino will soon announce who the ban will become effective.

Rep. Ma. Consuelo Puyat Reyes, however, lauded the ban, saying that "it is high time that we put our foot down" on sexual and physical abuses, unfair wages and deplorable working conditions that Filipino domestic helpers have to endure abroad.

She said she is willing to sponsor a bill in Congress to curb abuses against domestics by local recruiters.

Labour officials said 32,000 Filipinas, many with university degrees, apply for jobs as domestics abroad due to a lack of well-

paying jobs here.

Most of them end up in the Middle East, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore.

Filipino domestics abroad suffer from various forms of exploitation and discrimination, ranging from contract violations to rape, said Cynthia Tellez, executive director of the Hoog Kooi-based Mission for Migrant Filipinos.

Estimated

In Singapore, some 15,000 to 16,000 Filipino maids have to undergo pregnancy tests every six months and are prohibited from marrying Singaporeans, she said.

Hong Kong law requires its estimated 35,000 Filipino domestic helpers to have an individual work contract with their employer specifying salaries, holidays and other work conditions.

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Estimated

In Singapore, some 15,000 to 16,000 Filipino maids have to undergo pregnancy tests every six months and are prohibited from marrying Singaporeans, she said.

Hong Kong law requires its estimated 35,000 Filipino domestic helpers to have an individual work contract with their employer specifying salaries, holidays and other work conditions.

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Aides said Aquino will soon announce who the ban will become effective.

Rep. Ma. Consuelo Puyat Reyes, however, lauded the ban, saying that "it is high time that we put our foot down" on sexual and physical abuses, unfair wages and deplorable working conditions that Filipino domestic helpers have to endure abroad.

She said she is willing to sponsor a bill in Congress to curb abuses against domestics by local recruiters.

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Filipino domestics abroad suffer from

Mars: the next great frontier

Superpowers battle for giant leap in space

By David Blandy

As the Soviet Union celebrated another great leap in space the US astronauts failed for the second year running to take even one small step. They now face the prospect of another year with their feet firmly on the ground at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The latest Soviet space hero, Yuri Romanenko, parachuted to earth after 11 months in weightless orbit. Two more Soviet astronauts will soon hurtle through the earth's atmosphere to spend a year in MIR, the Russian space station.

Meanwhile, US scientists were on their hands and knees in the rocket of the space shuttle examining the boot ring of the booster nozzle. It had failed during a test.

The shuttle, first launched in 1981, has not flown since January 28, 1986 when, only 73 seconds into flight, it exploded

killing its seven crew, six astronauts and a schoolteacher. The next launch will be postponed until August at the earliest.

The National Research Council, which acts as a watchdog over the shuttle programme, believes even that might be too soon. It is urging the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) not to rush the launch and to carry out more frequent and stringent tests of components.

Failure

Through the combination of technical failure, a lack of funds and political will, the US has fallen far behind the Soviet Union in the space race. The Soviets, with computers and technology almost a decade behind the Americans, have "an almost frightening lead," according to Jane's Spaceflight Directory.

The Soviets have a taxi rank of vintage rockets, based on the technology of the early 1960s,

to send their astronauts and satellites into space. They are crude, but unlike the sophisticated shuttle, they work.

The Soviet Union has two orbiting space stations and they are working on an unmanned mission to Mars with their sights on putting a man on the planet early in the next century. It will be a three-year round trip. Their astronauts are treated like rock stars and their accomplishments publicly applauded.

The US space programme is epitomised by the Hubble Space Telescope. The telescope should have spent the last 18 months in orbit, gazing further into space — as far as 14 billion light years away — than man has done before.

In fact, it stands wrapped in silver space blankets in a giant warehouse in California. The air is changed every 90 seconds and giant fans protect it from grains of dust. Like the Pentagon's new spy satellite, the

Hubble telescope is waiting for the shuttle.

It will be at least seven years before the US can put a space station into orbit, and funding for the station was cut by almost half this fiscal year from \$767 million (\$408 million) to \$425 million.

Programme

The space programme has turned into a litany of failure. The unmanned satellite launching rocket failed twice and was grounded for a year. There were problems with the Delta rocket. The Atlas Centaur rocket was hit by lightning last March and was then destroyed by ground control.

After the shuttle disaster President Reagan promised: "This is not the end. So what went wrong?"

Mr Robert Seamans, chairman of the National Academy of Sciences committee that reviewed the space station, blamed the US malaise on a lack of enthusiasm at the White House.

House

Senator Donald Riegle, chairman of a space subcommittee, said: "The US has no space policy." Members of Congress and space experts complain that the White House has failed to give adequate support. They criticise the administration of Nasa and say space policy is bogged down in committee, reviews and inter-agency battles.

"Nasa is fondering under the worst management crisis in its history," said Donald Fink, the editor of Aviation Week and Space Technology.

A study by the astronaut Sally Ride, said that the Administration had failed to support basic research. "We need to be starting the technology development at a serious pace within the next year or two," she said, giving warning that it could be well beyond the year 2000 before the US could send astronauts to the moon again, or to Mars.

A consultant at the National

Research Council said one of the main reasons for the President's lack of enthusiasm is that space exploration had been a steady anti-climax since the moon landing nearly 20 years ago.

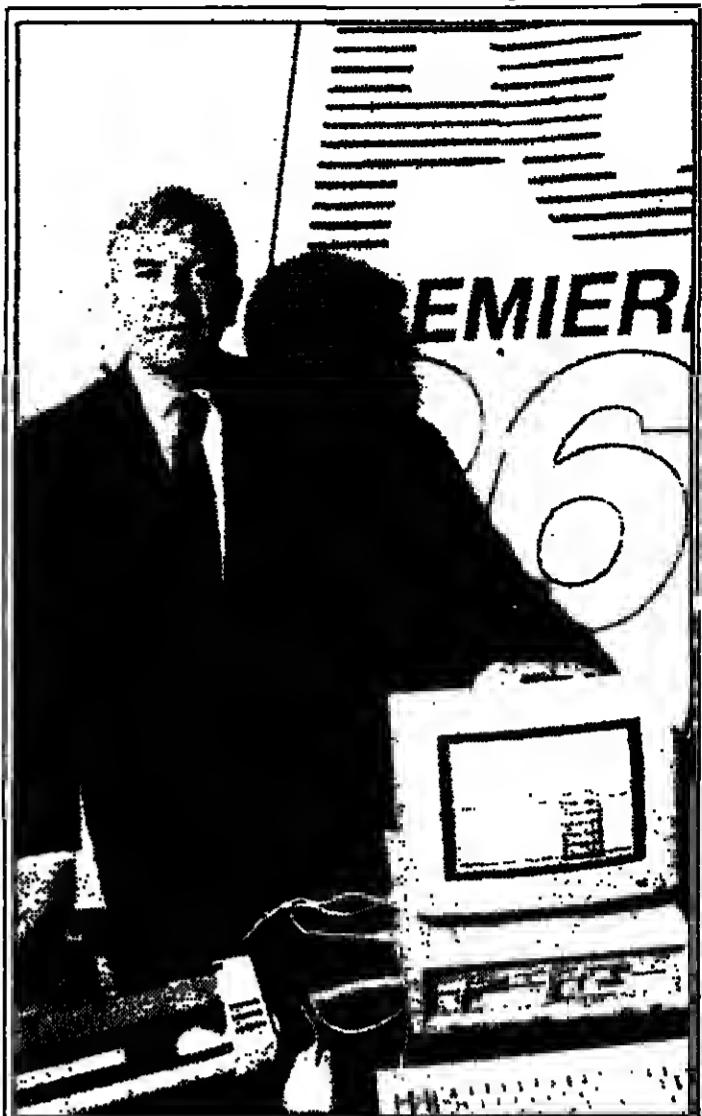
Boring

"People find space boring," he said. "We need to put some excitement back into space exploration." The orbiting space station could revive flagging interests. Scientists propose a permanent, manned space station on the dark side of the moon.

But the experts are casting doubt on the whole manned flight programme. They argue that remote controlled instruments can do most jobs better than human beings. "Manned flight is costly and mostly propaganda," said the National Research Council consultant.

Manned space flight is ruinously expensive — about 10 times as costly as unmanned flight. For virtually any specific mission that can be identified in space an unmanned space craft can be built to conduct it more cheaply and more reliably, Mr Alex Roland, a former Nasa historian said. "Why does Nasa cling to the idea of manned flight? Robots, the argument goes, lack the sex appeal of astronauts."

Soviet and US astronauts all want to go to Mars, the next great frontier. "But what do they do when they get there?" said a US space expert. "What happens if they have appendicitis during the three-year trip? What about solar radiation? It really is a waste of time and money."



Computer with memory of 10,000 characters

Bernard Schneider is pictured above with his new personal computer. His German-made model was designed, he said at the Orgatechnik trade fair in Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany, to meet special market demand. The computer has a memory of 10,000 characters. Exhibitors from 67 countries attended the Cologne office trades fair.

Indian scientists explore Antarctic



Dr Aditi Parikh and Dr Sudipti Senapati, two members of the third Antarctic expedition.

logical Department and the Geological Survey of India.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has been an integral part of all Antarctica expeditions. The IMD programme on Antarctica, besides providing support services during the expedition, involves the study of weather conditions and other atmospheric phenomena on the continent.

Of key interest to IMD scientists is the manner Antarctic weather affects the weather in India. These "teleconnections" can sometimes be used to predict specific phenomena like the monsoon. With the aid of a manned IMD observatory at Dakshin Gangotri, continuous feedback of weather data has been available for the past five years.

During spring time every year, a gaping hole appears in the ozone layer of the stratosphere above Antarctica. In 1986, IMD joined the "investigation programme" to study this strange and puzzling phenomenon and installed a sophisticated instrument called the Dobson's spectrophotometer at Dakshin Gangotri. The programme will be continued during the seventh mission, after which two IMD scientists will stay behind for the coming winter and the next spring.

Probe

Using the latest in geophysical techniques, Indian earth scientists have also initiated a series of studies to probe the ground of the ice continent. Many of these studies are directed to assess the mineral potential of Antarctica. For instance, Indian geophysicists have conducted several experiments over the ice shelf near Dakshin Gangotri and on an "oasis" called the Schimacher range about 90 km from Dakshin Gangotri.

On Antarctica, with most of the continent covered by ice, a white desert with exposed rocks and not covered by ice is called an "oasis". Electromagnetic

studies are being conducted over the ice shelf, as also geoelectric investigations on the rocky terrain of the oasis.

The scientists have of late, gone into the interior of the continent to study a range of mountains called the Wolthart ranges — one of the tallest on the continent, with many peaks reaching heights of several hundred metres. Geological mapping and mineral investigations have also been conducted on the Gruber Massif of the eastern Wolthart ranges over an area of about 750 sq km.

During the seventh expedition, air-borne magnetic surveys will be undertaken by the Indian scientists for the first time. The surveys will be conducted with the help of Indian "Chetak" helicopters.

As for research on living resources, scientists are now engaged in collecting mosses, lichens, algae and several forms of microorganisms for studies in primitive life forms. Nearly 40 species of exotic Antarctic

bacteria were brought by a biologist from Antarctica for investigations at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

A shrimp-like organism, "krill" is found abundantly in the waters of the continent. Indian marine scientists have made attempts to understand the role of krill in the marine ecosystem and identify special areas where harvestable krill are abundant. Studies are also under way to determine the distribution and abundance of zooplankton in the waters of the Antarctic Ocean.

The seventh expedition will also initiate the construction of a second Indian research station, about 80 km from Dakshin Gangotri. Unlike Dakshin Gangotri, which is on an ice shelf, the second station will be on exposed land. The station will make the Schimacher and Wolthart ranges — where most of the current Indian geological investigations are underway — more accessible.

Research on ozone layer

BREMERHAVEN (DAD): West German research vessel "Polarstern," recently returned from an expedition to the Arctic, is going off to the Antarctic for the sixth time, where she will remain for a few months.

The ship, a giant floating laboratory, will have on board 150 scientists from the Federal Republic and seven other states, including Chile, for extensive research into the ocean, pack-ice and climate. Research will concentrate on the ozone layer above the earth. Its density over the Arctic will be studied under the direction of the Bremerhaven-based Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Ocean Research.

Seriously

Some time ago climatologists became worried about the ozone layer. It protects life on our planet from damaging ultra-violet radiation from the sun. Since 1977 research has shown that there has been an alarming thinning of this layer at certain points and over the Antarctic there is a large hole in the ozone strata.

No-one knows yet whether this is a regular, recurring fluctuation or the consequence of damaging effects from the earth. There are suspicions that hydro-carbon fluoride used in sprays, as a coolant in refrigerators and in air conditioners is responsible.

This danger has been taken seriously. Forty-six states signed the Montreal ozone agreement, including the Federal Republic. These committed themselves to a 50 per cent reduction of hydro-carbon fluoride up to the year 2000. German manufacturers of fuel gas have committed themselves even further than the federal government.

The 'Polarstern' is owned by the Bonn Scientific Research Ministry. So far more than 1,000 scientists from many countries have worked on board her. The vessel is a match for all the rigours of the Antarctic. She can winter at the South Pole and break through ice up to two to three metres in thickness. The ship is supported by four land stations, maintained by West German polar research.

Help for the Polarstern scientists' work also comes from the skies. At the beginning of December two "Polar" aircraft were seen off on the long flight from the Cologne/Bonn airport to the Antarctic. Until March they will carry out vital transport duties. They will be particularly concerned in supplying a costly geological expedition to the Shackleton Mountains.

The two propeller aircraft flew to Punta Arenas on the southern tip of South America via Valencia and Rio de Janeiro. In Punta Arenas they were fitted with skids making them suitable for polar operations.



Two Dornier aircraft flew out to the Antarctic by stages. They will support scientists from the West German research vessel 'Polarstern' on a geological expedition to the Shackleton Mountains.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

BURNS CAN SPELL TROUBLE, ESPECIALLY FOR ELDERLY

QUESTION: My husband works in a kitchen and always seems to get burned on the job. He doesn't worry about it, but I do. I keep trying to get him to retire, but he won't.

ANSWER: You are right; even the smallest burns can spell trouble, especially for the older person.

Accurate assessment is necessary for each burn, because there is always the possibility of complications.

When liquids scald skin, they can cause burns that go through every layer of skin in just seconds. If the hot liquids roll off the skin quickly, they may cause only superficial wounds.

The potential for complication increases if a deep burn is on the face, ears, hands, feet or genitals. When a burn has penetrated the full thickness of the skin, it heals by forming scar tissue. The scars can greatly impair functions of the feet, hands and face. Burns to the eyelids, for example, can be devastating if scar tissue forms.

The scarring may cause permanent disfigurement.

Many burns cause infections. Burns on the foot and ankle, where the skin is thin and blood supply is poor, are frequently sites of infection. Genital area burns are also high-risk sites for infection.

When burn victims are elderly, the risk for complication is much greater. Older people often have a diminished sense of pain. That means they may not realise that the burn penetrated the full thickness of the skin. The skin also deteriorates and circulation is impaired in many elderly people, increasing the risk of infection and delayed healing.

Patients with diabetes also have a higher-than-normal risk of infection because of peripheral neuropathy and small artery disease.

Other patients at greater risk of infection include those who are immunosuppressed or those on medication, such as high doses of cortisone.

High-risk patients may be given antibiotics or even may be candidates for surgery when the burn is severe. Patients caring for their burn at home should fill a freshly scrubbed tub, sink or basin with lukewarm water. Soak the wound 10-15 minutes and gently wash the burn with a clean, soft washcloth. Remove any old cream, blood or loose skin. The wound then should be rinsed with clear lukewarm water and patted dry with a clean towel.

A thick layer of silver sulfadiazine cream should be spread over the wound. Finally, cover the cream with gauze dressing and

wrap it with several layers of bandage. The wound should be cleaned and dressed every day. If you notice the burn isn't healing normally, see a doctor right away.

Now show this answer to that husband of yours. I am not trying to scare him, just prove that your concern is valid and hopefully provide you with a few good tips on care, while urging him to be a bit more careful.

QUESTION: If I put off relying on glasses even though lately it's hard to read things up close doesn't that mean my eyes will remain stronger?

ANSWER: Glasses simply give you a clear picture of your world. They do not harm your eyes. Delaying wearing them will mean fuzzy vision, possible accidents and depriving yourself of the joys of sharp vision. If you're 40 years or older, you may need reading glasses because of a normal condition called presbyopia. The lens inside the eye loses its elasticity and can't change its shape to focus on small print. Check with an eye doctor to make sure there is no underlying disease condition causing the blurred vision. The doctor then will prescribe the best correction. People who always have worn glasses may find they need bifocals.

1988 TRIBUNE/MEDIASERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Intervention alone won't be able to prop up dollar indefinitely

Central banks can't buck a trend forever

NEW YORK, Feb 6. (UPI): The dollar greeted the New Year with a rally fostered by the world's central banks and spurred by a good trade report, but market watchers do not expect these developments to bring about a long-awaited turnaround in the US currency.

The central banks, seeking to trap speculators who bet against the dollar and to set a floor beneath which traders would be afraid to let it drop, undertook massive interventions in the currency markets in early January.

Their cause was aided by the \$13.2 billion November US trade deficit announced on Jan 15, a gap 25 per cent below that of October and far better than most financial market participants had expected.

With those two factors pushing it higher, the dollar has risen to about 127 yen from the 121.10 level at which it closed 1987 and to 1.67 marks from 1.57 on New Year's eve.

Deficit

But economists said the nation's budget and trade deficits still threaten the dollar and it will not make a meaningful recovery until they are resolved.

Traders already are focusing on the December trade figures, to be released in February, and some feel they have cause for concern. Japan has released its December numbers, and they

show its trade surplus surged to \$8.6 billion from November's \$8.7 billion.

While not all of Japan's surplus arises from its trade with the United States, the sharp gain has given rise to concerns that December's figures may not be as heart-warming as November's report.

Many observers said they think the dollar will continue to slide in coming months in the absence of any serious effort to resolve the budget and trade gaps.

"The trade deficit is still very large. Even at (November's) level, it is about 150 billion annually," says Stephen Marris of the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Pressure

"I still remain bearish on the dollar. If you go back to 1977-78, the strong pressure on the dollar came 18 months after the trade balance had improved."

On the budget front, Budget Director James Miller said in early January that President Reagan's proposal for fiscal 1989 "appears" not to exceed the 1.36 billion deficit agreed to with Congress last year.

Marris predicted the dollar will fall from its current level to 115 yen or even lower in the second half of the year. He also said he thinks a recession is unavoidable because higher interest rates will be needed to boost the currency and stem

inflationary pressures later this year.

"We have no foreign lenders, and the central banks will run out of ammunition," he said.

Marris said the level of the latest central bank purchases to prop up the battered dollar was at least four times as large as those in previous interventions.

Estimates of dollars bought by the banks range from \$2 billion to \$3 billion. That action caught several speculators by surprise, and as they scrambled to cover their short positions, the dollar soared.

Value

Another unique feature of the intervention was that the central banks continued to buy dollars even as the currency's value was rising. That was done to increase the cost to the speculators who had bet the currency would continue its decline and also to set some sort of a floor for the dollar.

Albert Soria, foreign exchange manager at the New York branch of Swiss Bank Corp., said the weak dollar could set off another global stock market collapse.

It was the mid-October plunge that led the central banks to massively intervene to support the dollar, whose declining value made foreign investors hesitant to commit to US Securities. When Wall Street went, it took the rest of the world's stock exchanges with it.

"The dollar opened in Japan at the precarious level of 120.5 yen (Jan 4) and the banks realised the dollar was sitting very weak and market crashes could ensue and they would have a terrible economic situation on hand," said Soria.

"The Japanese central bank intervened and was quickly followed by (West Germany's) Bundesbank and the (US) Federal Reserve. The thing about this intervention is that all the banks coordinated their effort and it was the first time they showed any unity since the Louvre accord."

That agreement, signed in February 1987 in the Louvre Art Museum in Paris by the United States, France, West Germany, Britain, Canada, Italy and Japan, was a pact among the group of seven industrial nations to stabilise their currencies at then-current levels. Five of those nations (Canada and Italy joined later) had been working to lower the dollar's value since September 1985, when it was felt that such a strategy was needed to help the United States deal with its budget and trade deficits.

Allen Sinai, chief economist for Boston Co. and Economic Advisors Inc., a unit of Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc., said fears of another market collapse are overdone but agreed the dollar coming into 1988 was sliding "too fast too fast" and there was a

risk the currency "could cascade."

He said the central bank intervention achieved the objective of throwing speculators off balance but noted the dollar was also helped by short-term interest rates that have remained relatively high.

Sina said bank interventions will not help the dollar unless they are accompanied by changes in US economic fundamentals.

"The banks have run out of ammunition in supporting the dollar, and intervention and higher interest rates are all that is left," he said.

Sina also said he expects the dollar to go down to 115 yen and 1.5 West German marks by the middle of the year.

David Rolley, senior economist with Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc., said the intervention helped establish a certain value for the dollar below which the banks will not let the currency slide and make it extremely risky for speculators to bet against the dollar. He said that level could be between 120 and 140 yen and 1.5 and 1.8 marks.

But Rolley said while the central banks can have profound effect on currency rates, they cannot control them indefinitely unless they are prepared to accept domestic consequences. Those include higher interest rates in

the United States and increased money supplies (needed to buy dollars) in other countries, with the corresponding risk of inflation in their economies.

In February 1987, with the Louvre accord, the central banks moved fairly aggressively to stop the dollar's decline. For six weeks after the publication of the accord, the dollar continued to fall despite heavy intervention.

The Fed then raised interest rates and accelerated the pace of intervention, which triggered a rally in dollars.

Dennis Hardaker, managing director of international assets, an Irvine, Calif., brokerage specialising in global markets, said the dollar is in for a rough ride in the days to come.

"The only people buying the dollar anywhere in the world now are the central banks — not the private sector. The banks cannot keep it up. Japan's Central Bank alone bought \$45 billion last year, but the dollar still fell 25 per cent against the yen," he said.

Hardaker said the investment community believes continued intervention without private-sector investment will only lead to the debasement of all currencies because countries must use their own wealth to buy dollars.

"Everyone is selling dollars because they don't think the United States will come to grips with its deficits," he said.

World Business Summary

Kuwaitis expand their investments in Japan

TOKYO, Feb 6. (Kuna): Kuwait has been active in purchasing stocks here recently, leading other foreign investors such as Oman and the UAE, local press reports said today.

The Middle East investors seem to be reassessing their international portfolio strategy and stressing investment in Japanese companies showing sound business performance, the reports stated.

About 60 per cent of foreign stock buyers in recent months here were West European investors and major US pension fund operators, with a considerable portion of the remainder being "oil money" investors. Japanese brokers were quoted as saying, They reportedly said that including the inflow into the Tokyo stock market of oil dollars, the combined value of the Middle East oil producers' investment in Japanese stocks certainly accounted for the overwhelming majority of the remaining 40 per cent.

Reports said among other major factors are expectations of sustained economic growth in Japan in contrast to the United States where an economic slowdown leading to possible recession and tighter credit is feared.

Outstanding among the oil-producing investors is Kuwait which invested nearly half of its assets in yen, totalling some 1 trillion yen in Japanese stocks before the "Black Monday," the reports added.

But Kuwait sold 10 to 20 per cent of the Japanese shares shortly before the October crash and it started to invest the money obtained in Japanese stocks again last year end, the brokers said. Details of other Middle East and Arab Gulf investors' trends are not known, but it is understood that the UAE and Oman have been expanding their investment in Japanese stocks as well.

Gulf investors tend to turn to long-term issue holdings said a broker in charge of international business at a major Japanese brokerage firm. The Gulf investors concentrate their investment on lower-prices issues with comparatively higher earnings, he added.

They give foremost attention to business performance of Japanese firms, with preference to domestic-related issues such as real estate and electric powers and financials, he added.

Oilman denies wrongdoing in Iraqi pipeline project

GENEVA, Feb 6. (Reuter): Swiss oilman Bruce Rappaport denied yesterday any wrongdoing in a billion-dollar Iraqi pipeline plan, a project which has brought US Attorney General Edwin Meese under the scrutiny of criminal investigators. The plan to build a pipeline carrying Iraqi oil to the Jordanian port of Aqaba, proposed by a US construction firm in 1985, has become controversial because of news reports it may have involved attempts to bribe Israeli government officials.

A statement from the offices of Rappaport's Inter Maritime Group said: "Bruce Rappaport, a Swiss businessman mentioned in recent media reports regarding the proposed Iraq-Aqaba pipeline, today disclaimed any knowledge of or participation in any unlawful or improper activity regarding the pipeline project." The statement added: "Mr Rappaport felt compelled to make this statement because of false or otherwise misleading statements appearing in various publications suggested that he had been instrumental in arranging payments to be made to one or more Israeli government officials or political parties in exchange for official Israeli government support of the project." It was the first statement from Rappaport's lawyer, E. Rubin Wallach, an old friend of the attorney-general and who was reported to be an associate of Rappaport and others in promoting the pipeline deal.

Oil output sharply down

BOGOTA, Feb 6. (Reuter): Output from Colombia's biggest oilfield fell by more than half in January due to guerrilla bombings of the pipeline carrying oil to the coast, a senior official said yesterday. Ramiro Perez Palacios, hydrocarbons adviser to the Minister of Mines and Energy, told Reuters output at the Cravo Norte field dropped to 95,000 barrels per day (bpd) last month from its average of 205,000 bpd. He said Cravo Norte, 600 km (360 miles) north of Bogota, accounts for about half of Colombia's total output of 400,000 bpd. Since January 12, when guerrillas began bombing the 785-km (480-mile) pipeline linking Cravo Norte to the Caribbean port of Cauca, no crude had been pumped for export through the duct, Perez Palacios said.

The defence ministry has said pro-Cuban guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN) have bombed the pipeline more than 12 times since January 12.

Exports of crude were not immediately halted, Perez Palacios said. A floating storage unit containing up to two million barrels of crude at Cauca had continued servicing clients for an unspecified amount of time. Cravo Norte is normally the source for 165,000 bpd in exports, the official said, with the state firm Ecopetrol and the Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp each handling about half of the exports. Perez Palacios said he did not have details on total oil exports from Colombia last month.

He said a normal 17,000 bpd of crude from a separate field in southern Putumayo Department was being exported through the Pacific port of Tumaco.

Oil markets quietly easier

LONDON, Feb 6. (Reuter): Crude oil prices were static to slightly weaker on the international spot markets, as activity remained sluggish, traders said. An overhang of immediately available supplies had pushed prices for cargoes of North Sea oil lower. But the Brent "paper markets," on which oil for forward loading dates is traded without necessarily being physically delivered, were steady. As a result, the gap between paper and physical North Sea oil has widened. However, traders ended the week uncertain over future price direction, and this was reflected in the low level of trading activity. Towards the close of European trade, North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude, was quoted 10 cts lower at 16.15. Dubai, the leading Middle East grade, was steady at 15.50, while the benchmark US crude, West Texas Intermediate, eased 15 cts to 17.15.

Dassault wins first export order in 2 years

PARIS, Feb 6. (Reuter): French aerospace firm Dassault said today it had won its first export order in more than two years when Jordan agreed to buy 20 Mirage-2000 multi-role combat aircraft.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac sealed the agreement on Thursday in talks with visiting King Hussein of Jordan, ending an unprecedented lull period for Avions Marcel Dassault-Breguet Aviation. State-controlled Dassault's

last major export sale was over two years ago, when India purchased Mirage-2000 aircraft. The company laid off 1,261 of its 15,000 workers last year.

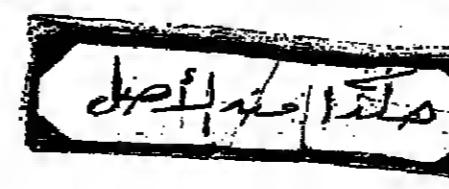
Dassault had been after the Jordanian order for more than three years, against competition from the Tornado, built by the British-German-Italian Panavia consortium, the F-16 built by General Dynamics Corp of the United States, and the Soviet Union's new export aircraft, the MiG-29.

Urgent Message To All British Expatriates ... Panic, Buy Now !...

Due to a recent change in British Tax Laws you

have only until February the 19th in which to secure a totally tax-free income for the rest of your life. If you have any questions with regard to the new legislation, please give me a call. Acting now could save you between 27% and 60% on tax when you need it most. This is your last chance to beat the tax man.

Contact me, Tony Mustafa, any time at the Holiday Inn. Tel. 4742000.



US sees continued increase in oil imports

WASHINGTON, Feb 6. (Reuter): US oil consumption and oil imports are expected to continue to rise this year, the Energy Department said in its short term energy outlook released yesterday.

It said consumption was expected to grow by less than one per cent in 1988, marking the third consecutive year of increased use.

The department said domestic production would likely fall at a rate between one and two per cent this year, forcing a rise in oil imports to about 36 per cent of consumption, up from last year's 35 per cent.

High

Imports reached their high in 1977, at 46 per cent.

The department predicted oil prices to fall to \$18 a barrel in the first quarter of 1988, down from about \$18 in the last quarter of 1987, reflecting high global stock levels.

It added that prices should then generally rise, reaching the \$19-a-barrel level by the first quarter of 1989.

The department also said coal consumption should remain fairly constant this year and natural gas use rise slightly.

S. Africa to privatise state assets

CAPE TOWN, Feb 6. (Reuter): President P.W. Botha today unveiled a sweeping privatisation programme to boost South Africa's economy but announced no new measures to reform apartheid.

In his only reference to apartheid reform, Botha said the government would "proceed with the measures which have already been announced and which are under consideration."

Officials said these included plans to open some residential areas to all races and to set up multi-racial bodies to discuss constitutional changes.

Deputy Information Minister Stoffel Van Der Merwe said he did not see any major diplomatic risk in the absence of new reforms in Botha's speech.

Western nations have urged Botha, 72, to carry on with apartheid reforms which have stalled since 1986 in the face of a growing challenge from pro-apartheid right-wing parties.

"I don't know if there were any expectations from foreign countries for specific reforms to be announced at this time," Van Der Merwe said.

Botha said his white-led government wanted to privatise the state electricity, transport and postal monopolies.

Botha was speaking for the first time in a glittering new assembly hall built to house special joint sittings of the tripartite parliament, which includes whites, coloureds and Indians but not blacks.

Salaries

Botha also announced plans to freeze the salaries of civil servants this year as part of a general curb on state spending.

The scheme could put him on a collision course with hundreds of thousands of whites employed in South Africa's sprawling bureaucracy and increase support for the far right.

The measures are designed to boost the economy which grew by an inflation-adjusted two per cent last year after years of deep recession.

Botha was speaking for the first time in a glittering new assembly hall built to house special joint sittings of the tripartite parliament, which includes whites, coloureds and Indians but not blacks.

Transit trade hit by market crisis

Economy on target, says Al Khaled

By Mohammed Al Bargas

KUWAIT'S Commerce and Industry Minister, Faisal Al Khaled, said yesterday that the Shuaibah Industrial Area had been turned into an area of real estate investments in clear disregard of the contract signed between the state and the beneficiaries of these plots.

In an interview with the *Seyasah* and *Arab Times* newspapers, he said that steps were being taken to terminate the violations.

He said that plots would not be withdrawn because the state wanted to give the beneficiaries a last chance to correct their positions.

Conditions

He said that he was not strict about allotting industrial plots but was taking every care to apply the rules concerning conditions for granting the plots.

The minister emphasised that there were many signs that clearly indicated that local economy had returned to a healthy condition, indicating that the return of much Kuwaiti capital to Kuwait showed the confidence prevailing in the country.

He pointed out that the local economic situation was related to the overall international economic order and developments. He said that any development in the world economy would reflect

on Kuwait.

Al Khaled said that the trade in Kuwait had dropped greatly after the big crisis caused by local and surrounding factors, including the Iraq-Iran war. He added that such conditions influenced the transit trade a great deal.

Plans

The minister said that many plans were submitted for improving and boosting economic activity.

He said that the Kuwaiti economy was greatly influenced by the drop in purchasing power because of the drop in manpower and the state revenues. Such a trend prevailed in Kuwait during the past four years, but he said that the positive signs in the Kuwaiti economy at present made him optimistic about a return to full activity.

Regarding the positive signs he had referred to, he said that the best of these signs was the return of active trading at the Kuwait stock exchange. He added that several organisational measures had been introduced and these helped to restore confidence to the market. This was reflected in the amount of buying and selling.

Participation

The holding of many trade fairs in Kuwait during the past three years and the participation of a large number of foreign and local companies was another

positive sign. He said that such participation showed the trust of the companies in the Kuwaiti economy.

He said that activity was gradually returning to the real estate market also.

Al Khaled announced that large sums of national capital had already returned to Kuwait, and this was substantiated by official figures and statistics.

He said that the return of this capital emphasised the fact that investing in Kuwait was more profitable and secure.

He stressed that liquidity was available in the local market and only needed investment channels. The best evidence of this was the fast purchase of the bonds and treasury bills sold by the Central Bank. He said Kuwaiti merchants and traders wanted the market to extend beyond Kuwait, but the Iraq-Iran war closed important markets.

Licences

He denied the ministry was strict about issuing industrial licences, added that the ministry was only applying the law. If applicants did not fulfil the conditions they would not be granted licences. The ministry cannot provide the licence before first ensuring the feasibility of the project.

About withdrawal of industrial plots from persons whose

projects were failures, he said the government would continue to cooperate with these persons to help them overcome their problems.

He said decisions to withdraw plots were in the hands of the Industry Development Committee.

He said that a number of industrial plots in Sabian area were withdrawn because the owners did not even start any project on them. They were given several chances to start but they did not.

Speaking about the Shuaibah Industrial Area, he said that many studies had been prepared on this area, and the last was made in 1980 by a consulting company.

He said the studies were initiated because of the many complaints by people in the area.

Investment

He pointed out that the area had been illegally turned into a real estate investment area instead of being used for industrial projects.

He said some of these plots had been used for commercial shops, some of which were licensed, but the majority were not.

Most of the plots had been leased on sub-contract basis to others and this clearly broke the provisions of the contract made with the government because the contract totally banned any leases.

Al Khaled said the ministry will provide substitute plots in several areas, such as Sulabiya, Adhiya and Dajji.

ing to others.

The study gave three options. One was to remove the shops in the whole area, but this was rejected because of the high cost. The second option proposed carrying out limited traffic and landscaping and this was also rejected.

The third option was accepted. It called for first removing the violations and then carrying out reforms by creating services in the area, such as gardens, car parks, and removing dangerous industries.

Study

He said a committee consisting of representatives from the Commerce and Industry Ministry and Kuwait Municipality was formed to study this option in detail and it submitted its proposals to the concerned authorities for action.

Decision

Regarding closing of some shops by the ministry before an official decision was taken, Al Khaled said that during its study the committee decided to prevent any further violations in the area. For this reason it decided to stop the opening of any violating shop after April 1, 1987, and the ministry closed down a number of shops that opened after that date.

Al Khaled said the ministry will provide substitute plots in several areas, such as Sulabiya, Adhiya and Dajji.

New system needed

Crash dampens economic outlook



THE 10th conference of Arab Economists Union opened in Kuwait yesterday under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khaled has been deputised by HH the Amir to patronise the conference, which was organized jointly by the secretariat of the Arab Economic Union and the Kuwaiti Economists Society.

In an opening speech Al Khaled said that this gathering was held during a difficult international economic situation, citing the international debt crisis as an example.

Deterioration

He said that the recent sudden deterioration in the international stock markets had added a new dimension to the path of the international economy.

He added: The economic difficulties do not include only the debt crisis or the stock markets crash but they include many problems, and directly affect

economic relations between North and South.

But the issue remained in the hands of the industrial countries which keep their control over the effective economic policies worldwide.

Critical

The Kuwaiti minister said that the Arab world is witnessing a very critical situation and is confronting political challenges in addition to the economic problems.

He cited as an example the Iraq-Iran war, which, he said, is still exhausting economic capabilities and achievements. He also cited the situation in occupied Palestine as another example of the challenges that obstruct a prosperous economic situation in the Arab world.

He called for unified Arab action to face such challenges, stressing that the success of an Arab economic development needs a joint Arab effort and cooperation at commercial, financial, economic and cultural levels.

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait share prices decline

ALSHALL Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.78 points with a slight decrease of 0.68 points from last week. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 48.88 points with a slight increase of 0.27 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 21.55 million shares at a daily average of 4.31 million shares with a slight increase of 9.7 per cent over the previous week daily average of 3.93 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 25.73 million shares at a daily average of 3.15 million shares with an increase of 30.4 per cent over last week's daily average of 3.95 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD. 7.21 million while it was KD. 1.67 million for the Gulf traded shares.

The market showed signs of decrease in prices of Kuwaiti shares, a slight increase in the prices of Gulf shares and an increase in the volume of trading for both shares, which was obvious for Gulf shares.

The announcements of dividends for some companies had an influence on the level of the market's activity. The return of investment seems to have gained a more important role, which reduced the influence of speculation in the market.

The various sectors maintained their last week's respective positions in relation to traded volume.

For Kuwaiti shares the banking sector had the lead at 39 per cent, with the Gulf bank having the highest percentage of 27 per cent of this sector, followed by Kuwait National Bank 24 per cent and Kuwaiti Finance House 22 per cent.

The Services Sector came second at 29 per cent of total trading with Kuwait Commercial Markets having a high percentage of 63 per cent, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems 19 per cent and Kuwait Computer Company 13 per cent.

The investment sector came third at 17 per cent of total trading with Commercial Facilities Company having 43 per cent of this sector, Investment Pearl Kuwait 28 per cent and International Financial Advisors (IAF) 24 per cent of total trading and the other companies sector had 32 per cent.

Coast Investment and Development Company had the highest trading volume of Gulf traded shares of 53 per cent followed by Ras Al-Khaimah White Cement at 12 per cent and Gulf Medical Projects at 11 per cent.

The investment sector came third at 17 per cent of total trading with Commercial Facilities Company having 43 per cent of this sector, Investment Pearl Kuwait 28 per cent and International Financial Advisors (IAF) 24 per cent of total trading and the other companies sector had 32 per cent.

Alshall stock price indices

Sector Index

42.60 43.08 -0.49

Insurance Sector

Kuwait Insurance Co. 40.23 40.23 -

Gulf Insurance Co. 28.46 28.46 -

Alahli Insurance Co. 45.53 45.53 -

Warba Insurance Co. 84.19 84.19 -

40.39 40.39 -

Sector Index

42.60 43.08 -0.49

Real Estate Sector

Kuwait Real Estate 35.05 35.68 -0.64

United Realty 13.63 14.52 -0.89

National Real Estate 46.98 46.58 0.40

24.76 25.38 -0.63

Industrial Sector

Kuwait Cement Co. 16.22 16.22 -

Refrigeration Indust. 82.60 84.69 -2.09

Gulf Cables 105.93 105.93 -

Kuwait Pharmaceutical 75.59 76.44 -0.89

33.33 33.50 -0.17

Sector Index

200.88 200.88 -

10.37 10.37 -

84.85 87.88 -3.03

Kuwait Comm. Markets Co. 39.95 38.95 1.00

366.67 366.67 -

68.69 69.23 -0.53

Food Sector

Livestock Trad. & Transp. 50.85 51.87 -1.02

United Fisheries 9.77 10.06 -0.28

Kuwait United Poultry 90.21 90.21 -

Kuwait Food Co. 68.97 71.26 -2.30

44.09 44.97 -0.87

39.78 40.47 -0.68

Overall Index

200.88 200.88 -

10.37 10.37 -

84.85 87.88 -3.03

Kuwait Comm. Markets Co. 39.95 38.95 1.00

366.67 366.67 -

68.69 69.23 -0.53

Gulf shareholding companies Index

Wednesday 27/01/88 Change points

Financial Companies

First Gulf Bank 228.95 228.95 -

United Gulf Bank 34.48 34.48 -

Bahrain Internat. Bank 100.69 100.69 -

Bahrain M. East Bank 96.81 96.81 -

Pearl Investment Co. 56.81 56.81 -

61.03 61.76 -0.74

Coast Inv. & Dev. Co. 79.65 77.06 2.60

Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro. 72.67 71.13 1.55

Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaibah) 61.36 61.36 -

65.46 65.11 -0.35

Sector Index

11.97 11.97 -

7.50 7.00 0.50

Fujairah Cement 9.87 9.87 -

Ajman Cement 10.00 10.00 -

Ras Al-Khaimah W. Cement 18.33 18.33 -

Gulf Medical Projects 17.11 17.11 -

Poultry & Fodder R. Alkha 36.36 36.36 -

12.63 12.52 0.11

48.88 48.61 0.27

Base Period 31/12/1983.

Chrysler earnings surge

KD deposit rates ease

ARAB TIMES MARKET PLACE

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

MISHRIFF, two storey spacious villa with garden. Curtains, and carpets, drip irrigation system with some light fittings for sale. KD1400. Tele. 5382129. 9 am - 12 noon, 5 pm. (AT1-40830-3)

MISHRIFF, villa; single storey, 3 bedrooms, fitted furniture, fully carpeted, garden, carport excellent maids quarters. No agents. Rent KD600. Tele. Mr. Hasler 5382187, after 6pm. (AT1-40829-2)

Available

HAWALLI, near Dr Newpinie Clinic. Independent room preferable for Indian. Bus routes 14, 18, 37, 506, 102. Rent KD60. Tele. 2628316, after 5pm. (AT1-40837-3)

KUWAIT City next to Hardes's Building, Opp. Malya bus stop. An independent room for 1 or 2 bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tele. Martin, 2410871, 2421985. 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4.30 - 7.30 pm. (AT1-40817-2)

FARWANIYA behind the Holiday Inn. One room in a three bedroom flat with water and electricity for a couple. Rent KD40. Tele. 2644632. 9 am - 1 pm. (AT1-40843-3)

KUWAIT City, Darwaza Abdul Razzak. 2 bedrooms for Catholic bachelors to share with a small Indian family, from 1st of March. Tele. Fernandes, 2445611. 4.30 - 8.30 pm. (AT1-40841-2)

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LANCER 1.4 engine, model 1984, in excellent condition. KD 650. Tele. 5651346, after 2 pm. (AT2-40872-1)

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BUICK Le Sabre (1979) A/C, automatic, lemon yellow, registered upto Nov. 88, repainted in excellent condition. KD600 o.n.o. Tele. Dr. Bhargava, 4893353 anytime. (AT1-40847-2)

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GOLF

Calcavecchia and Jones share lead

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif., Feb. 6 (Reuter): Steve Jones equalled the course record at the Cypress Point club yesterday with an eight-under-par 64 and moved into a tie with Mark Calcavecchia after the second round of the \$3,000 Pebble Beach national pro-am golf tournament.

Jones and Calcavecchia have eight-under-par 64 totals. Tom Seckmann is alone at 137 and Craig Stadler is at 138. Briton Sandy Lyle and West Germany's Bernhard Langer tied for fifth place at 139.

Lyle had the most unusual round of the day. He started at the 10th hole and made nine straight pars for a 35. Moving to the other side, he had five birdies and an eagle for a seven-under-par 30.

Lyle's birdie at the first was a chip from 20 feet and his eagle on the par-five six hole also was on pitch in from 45 yards.

Jones, a five-year veteran without a tour victory, posted a five-under-par 32 for the first nine holes. He then birdied the 10th and after seven straight pars he scored an eagle two at the final hole. His seven-iron shot landed about 25 feet behind the hole and then sliced back into the cup.

In Calcavecchia's round he had an eagle, four birdies and three bogeys for a 69.

Tom Watson, with a 72, dropped into a tie for seventh place with Jim Gallagher at four-under-par 140. Australian Greg Norman, who like Watson had a 68 on Thursday, shot a 75 and dropped back to nine-under-par 143.

In Melbourne, Australian Mike Clayton will clash with Northern Ireland's Ronan Rafferty in tomorrow's final of the Mercedes-Benz Australian Matchipay Championship at King's Heath golf club.

Clayton, 30, yesterday cruised into the final with a 5 and 4 victory over fellow Australian Craig Party.

Rafferty unleashed a burst of five birdies from the start of the back nine to demolish Australian Vaughan Somers, and clinch a 3 and 2 win.

Earlier in the day, Rafferty put out defending champion and top seed, Australia's Ian Baker-Finch, 4 and 2.

Clayton, squeezed into the semi-finals with a two-up win over Mike Colandro of the United States.

Lewis eclipses own world record

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (AP): American Tim Lewis set a one-mile walk world best time of five minutes 33.53 seconds at the Millrose Games yesterday at Madison Square garden.

Lewis' winning time eclipsed his world indoor best mark of 5:38.2 he set a year ago.

American Ed O'Rourke, who placed second in 5:55.88, was later disqualified by track officials because of four separate rule infractions.

Compatriot Gary Morgan, the third place finisher at 5:36.66, was ruled to have finished second. Third place went to another American, Curtis Fisher, at 6:05.66.

Bruno asked to wait a little

LONDON, Feb. 6 (AP): British heavyweight boxer Frank Bruno philosophicaly accepted, on Thursday he will have to wait a little longer to challenge world champion Mike Tyson, despite the fact that he is the World Boxing Council's No.1 contender.

British promoters had been in a date for a match-up between Tyson and Bruno at Wembley soccer stadium. But all that was swept aside on Tuesday when the news came from the United States that Tyson would defend against Michael Spinks in a \$70 million clash that is set to be the biggest ever, financially, in the sport's history.

Bruno's response was: "Good luck to them. I only wish I had a percentage." His manager, Terry Lawless, added: "They'd be insane not to fix the fight with that sort of money involved."

With Tyson also contracted to defend his titles against Tony Tubbs in March, Bruno probably will have to wait until September at the earliest for a shot at the champion. That would mean a contest in the meantime to prevent him getting ring-rusty.

Home Box Office, which is backing Tyson's fight series, reportedly is insisting, anyway, that Bruno meet another top-ten heavyweight to prove he is a worthy challenger for the world title.

"I'm ready to fight whenever one is fixed up and I don't mind who it is against," the 26-year-old Briton, beaten twice in 34 contests, said.

"I'm still the No.1 contender to Tyson and I'm sure my chance will come."

DURAN RAISES HIS RECORD TO 82-7

Starling outpoints Ozaki to retain title

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, Feb. 6 (Reuter): Steve Jones equalled the course record at the Cypress Point club yesterday with an eight-under-par 64 and moved into a tie with Mark Calcavecchia after the second round of the \$3,000 Pebble Beach national pro-am golf tournament.

Jones and Calcavecchia have eight-under-par 64 totals. Tom Seckmann is alone at 137 and Craig Stadler is at 138. Briton Sandy Lyle and West Germany's Bernhard Langer tied for fifth place at 139.

Lyle had the most unusual round of the day. He started at the 10th hole and made nine straight pars for a 35. Moving to the other side, he had five birdies and an eagle for a seven-under-par 30.

Jones, a five-year veteran without a tour victory, posted a five-under-par 32 for the first nine holes. He then birdied the 10th and after seven straight pars he scored an eagle two at the final hole. His seven-iron shot landed about 25 feet behind the hole and then sliced back into the cup.

In Calcavecchia's round he had an eagle, four birdies and three bogeys for a 69.

Tom Watson, with a 72, dropped into a tie for seventh place with Jim Gallagher at four-under-par 140. Australian Greg Norman, who like Watson had a 68 on Thursday, shot a 75 and dropped back to nine-under-par 143.

In Melbourne, Australian Mike Clayton will clash with Northern Ireland's Ronan Rafferty in tomorrow's final of the Mercedes-Benz Australian Matchipay Championship at King's Heath golf club.

Clayton, 30, yesterday cruised into the final with a 5 and 4 victory over fellow Australian Craig Party.

Rafferty unleashed a burst of five birdies from the start of the back nine to demolish Australian Vaughan Somers, and clinch a 3 and 2 win.

Earlier in the day, Rafferty put out defending champion and top seed, Australia's Ian Baker-Finch, 4 and 2.

Clayton, squeezed into the semi-finals with a two-up win over Mike Colandro of the United States.

Kersee and Torrence score impressive victories

Foster beats Nehemiah in hurdles

NEW YORK, Feb. 6 (AP): Greg Foster continued his recent domination over Renaldo Nehemiah, winning the 55-metre high hurdles in the Millrose Games last night at Madison Square Garden.

Long jumper Jackie Joyner-Kersee and sprinter Gwen Torrence also scored impressive victories.

Foster, 21, won the 55-metre high hurdles over his arch-rival Nehemiah returned to track in 1986 after four years in the National Football League with the San Francisco 49ers.

Rivalry

Although Nehemiah still holds a commanding lead with one dead heat over Foster in a rivalry that began in the late 1970s.

Clearly, it is Foster, who was still behind the other runners.

Nehemiah, still struggling to find the form and technique that carried him to the world outdoor record in the 110-metre hurdles and the world indoor best in the 55-metre hurdles, finished a distant fifth in 7.22, edging 1984 Olympic champion Roger Kingdom, who was last in the same time.

Nehemiah was the first not to

fall in 7.07 seconds.

Nehemiah, still struggling to find the form and technique that carried him to the world outdoor record in the 110-metre hurdles and the world indoor best in the 55-metre hurdles, finished a distant fifth in 7.22, edging 1984 Olympic champion Roger Kingdom, who was last in the same time.

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Adams upsets Fendick to reach finals

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb. 6. (AP) - Unsung American Katrina Adams came from behind today in the semifinals of the \$50,000 Virginia Slims of Wellington's women's tennis tournament to record the most important victory of her short pro career.

Down one set and 2-5 to top-seeded Patty Fendick, Adams staged the comeback of the tournament to win 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 and earn a place in tomorrow's final. She is playing in only her second major tournament since turning professional.

Adams will meet Canadian Jill Hetherington, the tournament's 13th seed who completed her best week on the circuit by ousting the second-seeded and 29th ranked player in the world Anne Minter of Australia 7-5, 2-6, 6-4.

Minter struggled on serve and at 15-40 down double faulted to leave Hetherington to serve for the set.

LUTON BEAT OXFORD IN GOAL SPREE

Liverpool stumble to a draw against West Ham

LONDON, Feb. 6. (Reuter) - Runaway leaders Liverpool suffered a rare indignity today when they stumbled to a 0-0 draw at home to West Ham and found themselves upstaged by the goal exploits of two of the English First Division's least fashionable clubs.

But Oxford fought back to make it 3-2 at the interval, Dean Saunders with a penalty and Martin Foyle sandwiching another Luton strike from Farron McDonough.

Luton striker Mark Stein then scored an 11-minute hat-trick at the start of the second half, Oxford replying through Richard Hill, to put the home team 6-3 ahead and further goals followed from Harford and Les Phillips before the final whistle.

The two teams meet again on Wednesday at Oxford in an English League Cup semifinal, first leg.

Results

English Division One
Liverpool 0 West Ham 0
Luton 7 Oxford 4
Manchester U 1 Coventry 0
Norwich 0 Watford 0

Postponed: Tottenham v Everton
Division Two
Aston Villa 2 Leicester 1
Blackburn 2 Manchester City 1
Bournemouth 6 Hull 2
Crystal Palace 3 Birmingham 0
Leeds 1 Ipswich 0
Millwall 0 Bradford 1
Oldham 4 Reading 2
Shrewsbury 0 West Brom 0
Stoke 1 Sheffield U 0
Swindon 1 Middlesbrough 0

Postponed: Plymouth v Barnsley
Division Three
Aldershot 4 Chester 1
Blackpool 1 Brighton 3
Bristol City 3 Bury 2
Chesterfield 1 Gillingham 4
Fulham 0 Mansfield 0
Grimbsy 0 Preston 1
Northampton 1 Doncaster 0
Sunderland 1 Walsall 0
Wigan 2 Bristol Rovers 0
York 2 Port Vale 3

Postponed: Rotherham v Brentford
Played on Friday:

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against Oxford and led 2-0 after only 19 minutes, thanks to goals from Mick Harford and Brian Stein.

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